2023 Climate Action & Resilience Report Bemidji State University



Mapping Our "What"

Jan 17 - Energy

Jan 24 - Water Jan 31 - Transportation Feb 7 - Materials & Waste Feb 14 - Economic Opportunity Feb 21 - Housing Feb 28 - Health & Wellness

Process Goals:

- Cultivate a shared sense of direction for each indicator with a 3-5 year lens.
- Identify a **what** for each

Experiential Goal:

Imbue participants with a shared sense of ownership for directing the work.

In 3 years, with regard to **ENERGY** use on campus, we agree to

- lead by example
- install an on-campus solar photo-voltaic array
- focus on increasing enrollment on & off campus
- ensure the Comprehensive Facilities Plan centers the goal of carbon neutrality
- continue optimizing energy efficiency by exploring opportunities for:
 - improving building envelopes and insulation
 - rightsizing campus facilities
 - improving the lived student experience
 - integrating this work and values into related job descriptions and HR practices.
- continue to explore geothermal possibilities
- optimize collaboration across campus to foster a shared ownership of this work







The CURRENT REALITY for this work

Strengths

- passionate stakeholders, for the environment, for Mother Nature; dedicated people
- ability to outreach to faculty and students to do the work
- dedicated staff positions
- well-educated, scholarly
- our location is a lot to fight for, lakeside
- mission and vision of the university
- our history of doing this type of work at BSU

• optimizing

conditions

• branding

education

connected

connection

OtterTail

Power

with

Weaknesses

- reduction in staff
- money to do tangible projects
- deferred maintenance
- misinformation/lack of info
- party of a system
- some policies as barriers
- timing/coordination
- do decision makers value the work with us?
- how the economic system reduces the conversation to dollars and cents, ROI
- faculty and staff already feel overworked
- aging infrastructure
- physical labor, bodies on the ground

Opportunities

- Community partners:
- Headwaters Regional Development Commission
- OtterTail Power Co
- Fed & State funding; Grants & foundations
- lots of smart ppl doing the work in MN
- MN STATE has accountability measures of progress
- •lots of human
- capital in community (City o Bemidji, Citizens
- Indivisible, etc)
- •Growth mindset we focus on our strengths

Consequences of our Success

- less usable greenspace on campus
- public relations might be polarizing
- if enrollment grows due to the magnetic appeal of campus, we might use as much energy, but less per capita
- physical and mental wellbeing improves
- aesthetics
- new maintenance requirements and their learning curve
- potential vandalism
- not utilized