

University of Maine Survey on Campus Carbon Emission Issues

The University of Maine [Faculty Senate Environment Committee](#) is considering several motions to pursue in regard to meeting the long-standing UMaine campus goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. A short [whitepaper](#) has been prepared and reviewed by numerous physical, social, and climate scientists, engineers, economists, and additional UMaine faculty members. The white paper provides background information on campus progress achieving net-zero carbon emissions to date and how the long-term goal might be achieved.

To familiarize yourself with the terminology and many of the issues raised in the survey questions that follow, we highly recommend that you first read the whitepaper in entirety or at a minimum the Executive Summary.*

Responses to this survey will help inform the Faculty Senate on the opinions of campus community members and help construct the motions to be included at the end of the white paper. That is, some of the following proposed actions are under consideration for incorporation into motions to be considered by the University of Maine Faculty Senate. These potential survey items are derived from the whitepaper or suggested by faculty, scientists, researchers, administrators and students engaged to date.

(1) Supporting Campus Actions Responsive to Climate Science Findings

It's important for the University of Maine to do its part in helping the state and nation to keep the world within 1.5 to 2°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(2) Building a Campus-wide Societal Problem-Solving Reputation **

The University of Maine should strive to become a destination campus for students from across the state, nation and the globe who want to make a difference in solving societal problems.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

* If you are interested in suggesting edits to the white paper itself, please do so separately by sending suggested changes with your citations to Faculty Senate Environment Committee Co-Chair Harlan Onsrud, harlan.onsrud@maine.edu

** Item is viewed as a **mid-level level priority (level 2)** in the event that the survey needs to be shortened.

*** Item is viewed as acceptable but a **low priority (level 3)** in the event that the survey needs to be shortened.

(3) Building a Campus-wide Sustainability Reputation

The University of Maine should strive to become a magnet for students, researchers, educators, and industry partners who are interested in working collaboratively and from diverse disciplinary and inclusive perspectives to comprehensively address the technological, social, economic, and environmental challenges of climate change and sustainability.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(4) Staying the Course in Achieving the UMaine Zero Carbon Emission Commitment

The University of Maine should abide by its 2007 widely publicized and annually confirmed long-term commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(5) Ensuring Annual Progress

The University should decrease greenhouse gas emissions each and every year at a rate consistent with the required annual minimum or greater to achieve the 2040 commitment or should expend the funds for carbon sequestering or carbon offsets to achieve yearly targets.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(6) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Net Emissions: Building Design and Cost Obligations

New campus construction and renovation projects should not cause expansion of the campus carbon footprint during either construction or long-term operation of the new or rebuilt facilities.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(7) No Expansion of Campus Greenhouse Gas Net Emissions: State and Federal Matching Fund Opportunities

The University of Maine administration and the UMS Board of Trustees should not seek or approve the use of any state or federal funds for any new construction or reconstruction that would expand the University of Maine carbon footprint.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(8) Decreasing versus Not Enlarging the Campus Carbon Footprint

Decreasing the carbon footprint of the campus should be made a design and funding requirement of each and every campus building and infrastructure project.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(9) Preference for Non-Combustion Near-Zero Carbon Emission Energy Sources

The University of Maine should prioritize its clean energy infrastructure core spending on long-term solutions (e.g., heating and electricity powered by wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero energy sources that might be supplemented through potential use of biofuels for power generation to top off geothermal heating during periods of high demand) rather than prioritize core spending primarily on a combustion-based wood biomass solution that would continue to emit pollutants and greenhouse gases on campus as well as increase noise and truck traffic.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(10) Building Conversions to Enable Primary Use of Wind, Solar, and Other Non-combustion Near-zero Carbon Emission Energy Sources

Regardless of whether the university pursues primarily a biofuels heating solution with currently available funding, its highest future priority in pursuing bond money or other substantial state or federal government funding should be to pursue funding for electrification conversion for existing university buildings to allow their use of wind, solar, hydro, and other non-combustion near-zero energy sources to supply both their heat and electricity (Example: Funding of a first phase demonstration project enabling powering of all heat and electricity needs for a group of buildings that then could lead to widespread electrification of the campus).

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(11) Banning Addition of Any Fossil Fuel Connections

The University of Maine should not install fossil fuel connections to any new campus construction or renovation projects.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(12) Regular Tracking of Campus Progress

The Faculty Senate should create a *Climate Change Audit Committee* under the auspices of the standing *Environment Committee* to closely track and aid the campus in achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. It should regularly communicate and coordinate with the University of Maine *President's Sustainability Council* and the *UMaine Climate Action Plan Working Group*.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(13) Divestment of Fossil Fuels

Following the lead of State of Maine Legislative Bill LD99 (2021) that now bans new public investments in fossil fuels and full divestment within 5 years, the University of Maine System should formally commit to stopping any new investments in fossil fuel companies and fully divest funds in fossil fuel companies within 5 years.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Note: The following three items may be the highest priority for dropping if the survey is viewed as being too long. These may be inserted elsewhere above if kept.

(14) Adding Carbon Emission Offset Costs to University Travel Expenses**

Until such time as U.S. society resolves the issue of travel carbon emissions generally, the carbon emissions for each university-funded travel trip should be computed and the cost of offsetting/sequestering the carbon emissions should be applied to the university travel costs for the trip and actually spent for this purpose.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(15) Funding for Energy Consumption Reduction***

The University of Maine should make as a high priority for funding the reduction of energy demand and losses within existing buildings and facilities.

- Strongly Agree

- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

(16) Annual Public Address on Climate Commitment Progress ***

The President of the University of Maine should present annually an oral address open to the campus community and public at large on the *State of the University's Climate Commitment toward Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2040*.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Respondent Relation to the University of Maine

(For student version of the survey)

(17) My primary relation to the University of Maine is best described as:

- undergraduate student
- graduate student
- other, please describe: <small text entry field>

(18) I am most closely affiliated with the following college.

- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
- Maine Business School
- All, none, or Other. Please specify: <small text entry field>

(19) I am pursuing my academic program(s) primarily through:

- On-campus attendance
- UMaine Online

(For faculty/staff version of the survey)

(17) My primary relation to the University of Maine is best described as:

- full-time faculty member
- part-time faculty member
- staff in a primarily research setting
- staff in a departmental or similar setting
- research unit head (e.g., organized research unit)
- unit head (e.g., department or school) or associate/assistant dean
- upper-level administrator (i.e., dean or above)

(18) I am most closely affiliated with the following college.

- College of Education and Human Development
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
- Maine Business School
- All, None, or Other. Please specify: <small text entry field>

(For both versions of the survey)

General Comments

(20 or 19) Please provide any additional comments you wish to make.

<medium size window for text entry>

SUBMIT

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey. Your response has been recorded. Summary results will be made available on the Faculty Senate Environment Committee website.