

DRAFT <26Nov2021>
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 recommend that you first read the whitepaper with particular attention to comments and citations in the footnotes.*

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 on page 6 of the white paper.

I. Personal Reactions to Global Science Findings

(1) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (2021) states that:

- Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years.
- Averaged over the next 20 years, global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming
- Unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades, global warming of 1.5°C and even 2°C will be exceeded
- From a physical science perspective, limiting human-induced global warming (requires) reaching at least net zero CO₂ emissions, along with strong reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions.

This report is supported by strong scientific evidence and its findings are highly credible.

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

(2) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2013) indicated that if humans do nothing to slow climate change, then global temperatures may actually increase by 4 degrees Celsius or more by the year 2100.

"The Earth has not been that warm in millions of years, and such temperature spikes in our planet's history are connected to mass extinction events that killed off a large percentage of species that existed at the time." "There is a genuine possibility that within the coming century, we will hit temperatures that are deeply incompatible with the

* If you are interested in suggesting edits to the white paper itself, please do so separately by sending suggested changes with your citations to the Environment Committee co-chairs.

continued existence of human life.” (<https://climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/why-do-some-people-call-climate-change-existential-threat>)

There is a critical need to react sooner rather than later.

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

II. Potential University Actions

Some of the following proposed actions are under consideration for incorporation into motions to be considered by the University of Maine Faculty Senate. These are derived from the whitepaper or suggested by committee members.

(3) The University of Maine should strive to become a destination campus for students from across the state, nation and the globe that want to “make a difference.”

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

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

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

(5) 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

(6) 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

(7) Any new campus construction or building renovation projects on the University of Maine campus, whether funded by the State, private, or other sources, should incorporate into the cost and design of the proposed building construction the requirement to cause no expansion of the carbon footprint of the campus.

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

(8) The University of Maine administration and/or the UMS Board of Trustees should ban the use of any state or federal funds for construction or reconstruction on campus that fails to reduce the carbon emission footprint of the campus or at least does not expand it.

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

(9) Hypothetically, if the campus administration and UMS Board of Trustees were to seek State of Maine bond funding for infrastructure improvements in the amount of \$500 million to either (a) support new construction and reconstruction of campus buildings spread among colleges of the university or (b) create the infrastructure to allow the heating and electricity of most major buildings on campus to be supplied through near-zero carbon emission energy sources, option (b) would be the better choice.

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

(10) Actual decreasing of the carbon footprint of the campus should be made a funding priority of each and every campus building project.

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

(11) Similar to the Columbia University pledge, 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) 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) 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 stop 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

III. Respondent Relation to the University of Maine

(For student version of the survey)

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

- undergraduate student
- graduate student
- other, please describe: _____

(15) 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

(16) 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:

- faculty member
- adjunct faculty member
- administrative staff
- research staff
- academic unit head (e.g., department or school)
- research unit head (e.g., organized research unit)
- 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

(For both versions of the survey)

IV. General Comments

(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 FS Environment Committee website.

APPENDIX

Suggestions by Reviewers to Date for Consideration by the Committee

1. Suggested Elimination of Survey Items

No item has been suggested for elimination to date.

2. Suggested Addition of Survey Items

(aa) The University of Maine Machias campus should be added to the University of Maine commitment to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040.

- Strongly Agree

- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

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

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

(cc) 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 costs for the trip and actually spent for this purpose.

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