

iCAP Working Group Minutes

Tuesday, November 16th, 2016

358 NSRC, 12:00

Present: Morgan Johnston, Ben McCall, Robyn Deterding, Scott Willenbrock, Sean Reeder, Matthew Tomaszewski, Gary Kling, Joe Edwards

1. Future meeting dates. Did not want to meet during finals week for Joe's sake. Decided on Tues, December 6th at noon.
2. Electrification study history(Ben and Morgan):
In order to meet the commitment to climate neutrality by 2050, the 2010 iCAP called for a study of campus utility production. In 2012, Facilities and Services, with an outside firm, began developing the Utilities Production and Distribution Master Plan (UMP). Released on April 22, 2014, it concluded that no combination of technologies would allow us to achieve our carbon neutrality goals by 2050. The Energy Generation SWATeam recommended outside review of the UMP, but F&S did not support this and the recommendation was dropped. SWAT-EGEN then recommended a study to determine the feasibility of converting all steam utilities on campus to electrified ones, allowing us to stop burning fossil fuels at Abbott. Mike Larson developed an estimate that the electrification feasibility study would cost \$300,000.
3. Electrification Discussion
Morgan summarizes F&S response, which had been sent via email: We do not need an exact dollar amount to have the high level discussion with campus about electrification. If we do electrify, grid decarbonization is a big assumption and we will need to purchase additional RECs to be carbon neutral by 2050. We also have limited resources and this is not the most important of them. F&S does not recommend proceeding.
Scott responds. Nobody knows what will happen by 2050 and it's unfair to say that decarbonization is unlikely. What we do know is that electricity is more efficient than cogeneration plants such as Abbott. We could start looking at outside-the-box options for heat. Abbott is the "big dog" of our emissions and must be addressed. Perhaps a summit or in-person dialogue would be best.
Matthew agrees we re-open the conversation and have a dialogue.
Ben reminds group that it is differential cost between renewable options and fossil fuel options that matters, not just cost of renewables alone. We have committed to spending \$1.6 billion on natural gas.
Joe says we can't claim to be a climate leader and continue burning fossil fuels.
Ben proposes that iWG informally recommend a big dialogue between F&S, iSEE, and other stakeholders.
Sean suggests we consider altering the scope of the electrification study and perhaps look at grid resiliency too. Should also improve space utilization.
Matthew says >\$2 million lost per year in enrollment due to space underutilization. Much of it wasted as storage space for junk.
Suggestion that electrification could be done incrementally, along with retrocommissioning.
Ben and Morgan suggest Scott schedule the dialogue with F&S and Scott agrees.

Adjournment approximately 1:00 pm.