

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2021

2:00pm

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/84552501770?from=addon>

Present: Mary-Ann Ibeziako (presiding), Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Kenn Miller, Alan Grant, Kim Briele, Matt Hagy, Rob Lowe, Elena Lind, Matthew Eick, Todd Schenk, Jamie Stein, Vineela Eppe, Lucas Goodman, Abigail Belvin

Absent: Frances Keene, Liza Morris, Dana Hawley, LaTawnya Burlison

Guests: John Randolph, Jamie Lau, Alexa Briehl, Jeri Baker, Teresa Sweeney, Mike Dunn, Scott Kerklo, Blake Bensman, Nathan King, Emily Vollmer, Gregory Evanylo, Sean McGinnis, Lowell Jesse, Simona Fried, Eli Meyer, Nick Quint, Jack Leff, Michael Bell, Yugasha Bakshi

Mary-Ann Ibeziako called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 27, 2021

Mary-Ann Ibeziako noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Presentation

Mary-Ann Ibeziako (Chair, AVP Infrastructure & Sustainability & Chief Sustainability Officer), John Randolph (Professor Emeritus and Climate Fellow), Nathan King (Campus Sustainability Manager), Emily Vollmer (Sustainability Coordinator), and Jack Leff (GPSS President, Graduate Assistant), gave a presentation that covered all agenda items including old and new business sections for the committee (attached).

4. Open Discussion

Discussion of the name change:

Jack asked if anyone has an objection to the E&SC name change. No objections were voiced. Jack asked for thoughts on tying outreach and communication into reporting and evaluation for implementing the CAC: who we should report to, how frequently we report to them, what groups we need to make sure are informed, and what groups we'd like to be informed. That might help us facilitate some of these goals that we're discussing. Todd shared that it may be premature to say anything explicitly about reporting until some uncertainties are cleared up (referenced Friday Commission of Faculty Affairs discussion). Timing could be very good to talk about principles of what we'd like it to be in terms of reporting lines. For example, one reason why we developed goal 13 was to emphasize the need for this group to report to academic commissions and Commission on Faculty Affairs so that we could have more direct input on ways things are being executed on the academic side as well as on the Facilities and Operations side. Jack agreed that is a fair point.

Zoom chat on name change:

Todd to Jack: will elevation to direct reporting to UC change anything substantively? I assume this can run in parallel to those wider governance changes?

Jack to Todd: Kind of, we'd have a few more powers like being able to charge standing committees ourselves but we would still report out to other commissions to keep them updated so less so in our day-to-day activities I suspect.

Discussion of the charge:

The charge is a sort of value statement as a commission: what sort of things we consider and what we're put in charge of. Anything that we are missing from the CAC in the charge? Time was given for the group to consider. Jon Clark: Are we confident in the strategic nature of the statement and is it really capturing what we want it to. I think we're good at an operational and tactical level. How do we push in that this needs to be at the forefront of the strategy of the institution not just separated? How do we achieve the overall strategy? I'm interested in other components. If we go back to the strategic plan and look at the areas that are highlighted there and then go to where those things fall in a commission or a committee and see they got that built in and try to mimic that a bit. It might appeal to people more that way and capture what we're trying to achieve. Jack: Great idea. In the next day or two I'll send some of the charges from other commissions that are being changed right now from the President's Commission on Governance and send that with the email to see if that might spark some additional conversation. Todd: Commissions are almost exclusively policymaking entities normally. This charge reads more as if we're going to support implementation which is not typical. Is it okay for this case? Mary-Ann: Looking at the existing 5505 policy. It's a framework that we'll probably need to take a deep look into, revamp, and then push it back up to university administration. This will be an ongoing conversation.

Discussion on changes to membership:

Are there any notable names missing from the list on the presentation slide so that we can have the cross-university partnership that we want from this commission?

We will likely group all these proposed changes together into one resolution that would change our name, charge, and membership and Jack has volunteered to take the lead on writing the resolution. Do we feel comfortable with the number of people represented from each office? We want to get good diversity across colleges. Jon Clark: Is there some way to distinguish faculty representation with subject expertise from the three bodies of work (Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy)? Also, from the resource allocation perspective: Regarding the Finance Division and the interaction with the Provost Office, with the new structure and Don Taylor's new role, we should probably have a discussion with that group of how that aspect would plug in in the right manner. Mary-Ann: We can get their input when we meet with them for the roadshow.

Zoom chat on changes to membership:

Jack: I'd also note that it's very unusual to bring in an outside member to a committee but that's a really cool thing that sets us apart from the other committees/commissions and showcases our town-gown relationship! How do folks feel about asking that at least 2 and maybe 3 different colleges are represented by the faculty senate reps?

Nathan: What about representation from Athletics Dept?

Todd: I wonder how prescriptive we can be of who is eligible from appointing constituency groups (like faculty reps)? Also, we do not always have the luxury of being so choosy in reality... sometimes it's whomever is willing.... (and then in response to Jack's example with the CGS&P) That's great to know (with CGS&P as an example) - seems possible then...

Jack: To Todd's point though it's also a question of whether they want to meet. I know that Don's office might want to be consulted but not necessarily have members on the commission or some such.

Eli: can we put high priority on including reps from college of agriculture - particularly those involved in land management?

Jack: @Eli that would make sense, I'd love to see at least one CLAHS person there as well because of the commitment to climate justice and it makes sense to have a green engineer too. It's just a struggle because it depends on who fac senate can put forward.

Eli: @Jack I'm thinking more on the lines of operations staff - the people that run the Kentland farm for instance.

Jack: I see, that would be a really productive addition as well!

Discussion on monitoring Sustainability and CAC implementation:

Mary-Ann: Do we want to put together a list of all ideas for proposed subcommittees and working groups for the committee to vote on next meeting? Jon Clark: It may be helpful to consider the subcommittees we had coming out of the CAC and what lessons we learned from that. Mary-Ann: Yes, a debrief from each of those

committees would be useful. Then we could also see which ones could potentially carry over. Jon-Clark: Maybe we could survey them to find out if they felt their contribution was valued and pushed forward, how could it be leveraged differently.

Mary-Ann: We need 2 volunteers for the task force to look at subcommittees that were recommended during the CAC development. If you would like to volunteer, please email Kristina.

We need 4-5 members of this group to be part of the task force. Reach out to Kristina by chat or email. We will capture ideas for subgroups that were outside of those on the presentation slide and send that list out to the group to vote on and approve.

Zoom chat on monitoring sustainability and CAC implementation:

Todd responded to Mary-Ann's suggestion of a Sustainable Campus Culture Subgroup: I like that, Mary-Ann - presumably some interesting social marketing work could fall under that group's work? Certainly, behavior change is central to goals 12 and 13.

Jack: Proposal on the table: form a task force to evaluate goal 13 and the list of proposed subcommittees to figure out which ones we want to implement

Todd: More specifically: What they should be; their charge; and potential membership (not necessarily names, but constituencies)

A motion was made and seconded to set up a task force to consider name change, charge, changes to membership, and subcommittees to monitor sustainability and CAC implementation. The motion carried.

Discussion on Sustainability Award Program:

John: A great idea and something a lot of universities are using successfully. Valuable to draw attention to what we are trying to do. Rewards people for their contributions. Jon Clark likes the proposed timeline. It counters the Green RFP program so there's something happening in the Spring and wraps up in Earth Week.

A motion was made and seconded to include this as one of the goals to achieve for this year. The motion carried.

5. Adjournment-

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:00pm



Energy & Sustainability Committee

October 25, 2021– 2:00 PM





AGENDA

- Welcome And Opening Remarks
- Approval of the Proposed Agenda
- Meeting Minutes – Electronic Vote Results
- Old Business
 - Set The Agenda and Committee Goals For The Upcoming Academic Year
 - Policy 5505 – Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction
 - Climate Action Commitment Implementation Update
 - Green RFP Update
- New Business
 - CAC Budget Overview
- Open Discussion

Next Meeting: November 15, 2021 at 2pm, Zoom protocol

Set The Agenda and Committee Goals For The Upcoming Academic Year

Some thoughts and considerations:

- What initiatives would we like to move forward?
- Documents or policies that we would like to introduce or update?
- Other ideas?





Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

4. As metering is added to the current central distribution systems, billing based on actual use may be incorporated.

3.7 Point of Contact

The Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer is the point of contact for this policy.

3.8 Energy and Sustainability Committee

The university's Energy and Sustainability Committee shall assist the Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer and the Vice President for Administration with the implementation and revision of this policy.

3.9 University Departments and Regulatory Agency Contacts

The Office of the Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer will coordinate with other university departments and outside regulatory agencies to develop and implement procedures to ensure full compliance of the design and execution of the work with applicable codes, standard permitting requirements, and other university concerns. Each of the university activities below should identify a lead person responsible to represent them and to support the Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer to coordinate university wide sustainability initiatives. These contacts should include, but are not limited to:

- Academic Deans and Departments
- Department of Athletics
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Department of Recreational Sports
- Dining Services
- Housing and Residence Life
- Student Engagement and Campus Life
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

3.10 Implementation and Compliance

Each department head or supervisor is requested to:

1. Communicate this policy to everyone under his/her supervision by providing access to the policy and discussing with his/her employees.
2. Identify all training requirements in this area that may apply to those individuals working in the organization and inform supervisors of the need for appropriate training.

4.0 Definitions

ASHRAE: American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers

Commissioning: A process which ensures that systems are designed, installed, functionally tested, and performing in conformity with the design intent.

CAC Goal 13 – Change E&SC Name, Charge, Membership

- Name change to: Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee (CASE Committee)
- Revise the **reporting lines** of the CASE committee to include, in addition to CUS, relevant commissions for student life, academics, faculty and staff.
- Modify the current charge of the E&SC for the CASE Committee. Consider the following:

“To review and provide guidance to all facets of University Administration on implementation opportunities and issues relating to the university's Climate Action Commitment and the pursuit of environmental quality and social sustainability, through policy, infrastructural and operational changes, education, and broad engagement.”



CAC Goal 13 – Change E&SC Name, Charge, Membership

- Modify the **membership** of the new CASE committee to include additional representation of the VP for Campus Planning, Infrastructure & Facilities (VPCPIF), the Provost’s Office, Student Affairs, student environmental organizations, and local community partners.
- **Current E&SC membership:** Six Ex-Officio; Two from Facilities Services; One from Environmental Health & Safety; Four from Faculty Senate; Two from Staff Senate; One College Dean; Two graduate students (GSA); Two undergrad students (SGA)
- **Suggested additional members:** Ex-Officio (Chief Climate Action & Sustainability Officer (CCASO), Chair; Sustainability Manager, Dining Residence Life; Asst. VP for Utilities; Executive Vice Provost; Director, Parking & Transportation; Sustainability Manager, Town of Blacksburg); student representing environmental group (by SGA); student representing frontline communities (by Vice Provost for Inclusion/Diversity)

Monitoring Sustainability and CAC Implementation

- Recommendation: Create a task force to look at CASE subcommittees (SC) that may include:
CAC Implementation SC, GHG Inventory SC, Climate Action Living Laboratory (CALL) SC, Climate Justice SC, Engagement & Sustainable Choices SC, Education & Student Involvement SC, Town-Gown Sustainability SC

Subcommittees may include participation beyond formal CASE membership

Sustainability Awards

- New program to recognize sustainability efforts of VT students, faculty, and staff in areas of research, coursework, projects, etc.
- Potential subcommittee formed to consider:
 - Feasibility of program, interest in program
 - Developing award categories
 - Conducting application period
 - Determining recipients
- Proposed timeline:
 - Applications open January
 - Applications close March
 - Recipients notified April
- Office of Sustainability would:
 - Help promote throughout application period
 - Host ceremony during Earth Week
- Annual opportunity



Climate Action Commitment Implementation Update

CAC Implementation Guidelines: pathways by goal (living document)

CPIF projects: lots of things happening but much more to be done

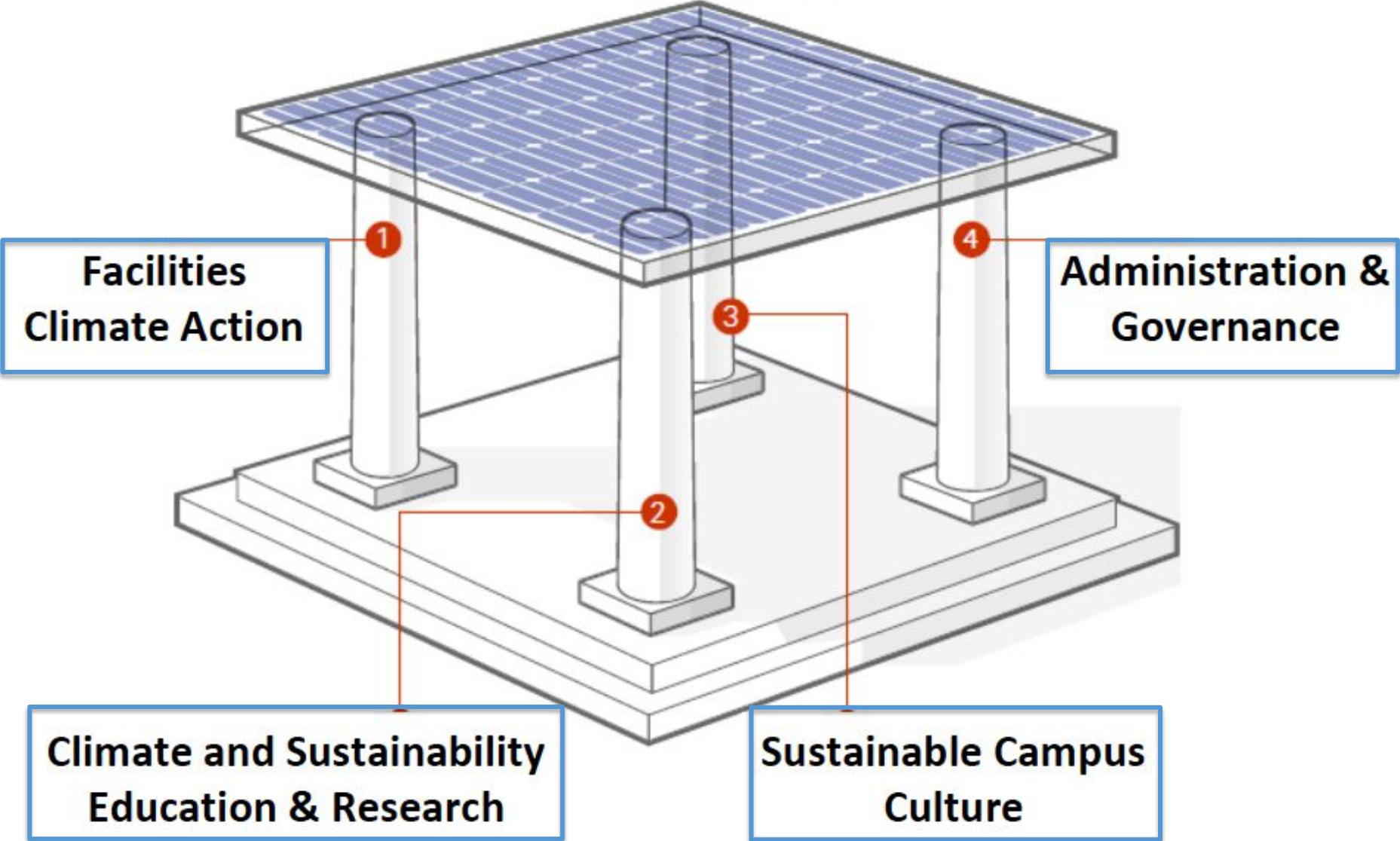
- Goal 2: Solar development: 2 MW on 7 building rooftops
- Goal 3: Steam/power plant: boiler #12, power generator
- Goal 3: Chiller Phase 2 upgrade
- Goal 4: Lighting audit, retro-commissioning plan
- Goal 5: LEED Gold: Student Athletic Performance Center
- Goals 12/13: Engagement programs of Office of Sustainability

Goal 10: 9/17 Faculty retreat to brainstorm Climate Action Living Lab

CAC Roadshow: planned meetings with campus leaders, deans, commissions, groups to promote university-wide engagement in CAC implementation

Four Pillars of Climate Action Commitment Implementation

Four Pillars of VT CAC Implementation



Four Pillars of Climate Action Commitment Implementation

Pillar 1. Facilities Climate Action

Implement projects to meet carbon neutrality and other physical goals (energy systems and sources, building efficiency, land operations, waste management/procurement, transportation systems), while pursuing innovative financing and considering social equity impacts of these measures (goals 1–9, 11, 14, 15).

Pillar 2. Climate and Sustainability Education & Research

Advance and spotlight Virginia Tech curriculum on climate and sustainability **instruction** to prepare tomorrow's leaders; accelerate VT climate and sustainability **research** to play a growing role in the world's 'climate and sustainability moon-shot'; apply VT **outreach and extension** to assist climate-vulnerable communities in Virginia and beyond; and integrate campus physical changes into experiential learning and research through the Climate Action Living Laboratory (goals 10, 11, 13).

Pillar 3. Sustainable Campus Culture

Enhance sustainable choices and behavior among students, faculty, staff through social marketing, incentives, and education to improve campus livability & wellness and reduce behavior-related GHG emissions (goals 7, 9, 12, 13).

Pillar 4. Administration and Governance

Establish the CAC and climate and sustainability education as integral parts of the university through explicit attention in the governance structure (e.g., proposed Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy (CASE) Commission) and new administrative structure (e.g., CPIF's new Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy (CASE) unit and the proposed institute/center/academy/school for climate and sustainability), as well as engaging key university administrative units (e.g., Provost's Office, Colleges, Student Affairs, Budget & Finance, Procurement, Advancement, VT Foundation).

The Student Green RFP Program

- Since AY 2010–2011, 110+ proposals approved & funding over \$1.5 million
- We just received Coca-Cola pouring rights funding for 8 projects that total \$50,000 and will be adding to implementation
- With over 30 projects approved this spring/summer due to the backlog from 2019–20, this has been our largest implementation effort in program history
- **Current status:** 2 complete, 25 in progress, and 1 delayed
- Our office is already receiving emails from interested students looking to submit an RFP this fall.



Green RFP Projects List

| Project # | Green RFP Title & Description |
|------------------|---|
| In Progress | LED Lights - VT Rescue Squad (VTRS) |
| In Progress | Lighting Upgrade - Parking Lot |
| In Progress | Media Building Lighting Upgrade |
| Complete | Sink Lights - Pritchard Hall and Hoge Hall |
| | HVAC Upgrade to the Moss Arts Center |
| In Progress | Findenser Units - Davidson Hall |
| In Progress | Stroubles Creek Riparian Restoration (Phase 3) |
| | Autoclave - Engel Hall |
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Station - Math Emporium |
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Station - Visitors Center |



Green RFP Projects List

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Stations - Architecture Annex and Media Building |
| | Light Switch Stickers in Residence Halls |
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Station - Cheatham Hall |
| In Progress | Monarch Butterfly Conservation |
| In Progress | LED Lights - McBryde Hall |
| | LED Lights - Lane Hall |
| In Progress | Pump System VFDs - Latham Hall |
| Nearing Completion | EV Charging Stations |
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Station - Hutcheson Hall |
| In Progress | Bike Fix-It Station - Venture Out Center |
| In Progress | Water Bottle Refill Stations - Food Science Building |



Green RFP Projects List

| | |
|------------------|---|
| In Progress | Covered Bike Rack - Life Sciences Facility |
| In Progress | Bike Racks - Eggleston Hall and Cowgill Hall |
| Complete | Bike Fix-It Stations - McComas |
| In Progress | Bike Rack - Cochrane Hall |
| Delayed - Summer | Carpool Parking Spaces |
| In Progress | Compostable Utensils - Turner Hall |
| In Progress | Stroubles Creek Riparian Restoration (Phase 4) |
| | Covered Bike Rack - Steger Hall |
| In Progress | Bike Racks - New Classroom Building |
| In Progress | Reusable To-Go Containers |
| In Progress | Bike Shelter Retrofit -Cochrane |
| In Progress | Compostable Straws |

Green RFP – Recently Completed



Dero Bike Fix-It Station

Location: McComas Hall



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Climate Action Commitment Budget Overview

Summary Request

The office requests approximately \$460,000 in base funding and approximately \$7.5 million* in one-time funding to support CAC goals 1 through 9, which specifically address investments in solar technology, ongoing sustainability and energy programming, sustainability and energy human resource needs, and other critical path items. Table 1 below provides a summary of the prioritized financial request.

| Priority | CAC Implementation Measure | Base Request, \$ | One-time Request, \$ |
|----------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2.35 mW On-site Solar Array Installation | 0 | 5,405,000* |
| 2 | Sustainability and Energy Programming | 0 | 1,935,000 |
| 3 | Sustainability and Energy Staffing | 458,551 | 10,000 |
| 4 | Liquefied Natural Gas Backup System Study | 0 | 115,000 |
| 5 | Waste Management Consultative Services | 0 | 50,000 |
| TOTAL | | 458,551 | 7,515,000 |



Climate Action Commitment Budget Overview

The following allocations have been approved for FY 2021-22:

| AUTHORIZED BUDGET DOCUMENT | | | | | |
|--|------|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | BASE | | | | ONE-TIME |
| | FTE | Salary | Estimated Fringes | Operating | Operating |
| <i>Climate Action Committee</i> | | | | | |
| *Sustainability and Energy (Staff) | 4.0 | 249,000 | 118,056 | 2,944 | 85,000 |
| **Liquefied National Gas Backup System Study | | | | | 115,000 |
| **Waste Management Consultative Services | | | | | 50,000 |



Open Discussion



Set The Agenda and Committee Goals For The Upcoming Academic Year

- CAC Goal 13 – Change E&SC Name, Charge, Membership
- Monitoring Sustainability and CAC Implementation
- Sustainability Awards



Thank you!



Next Meeting: November 15, 2021
2pm via Zoom

