

SCHOOL: University of Montana

Write a short, factual summary of each school's CAP & process here, using this guide (one paragraph each, for #4, just a list)

1) the school & key location and demographics

The University of Montana is located in Missoula, Montana. UM has a student population of about 7,700 and an endowment of \$207 million. The cost of tuition is about \$7,500 for in state residents and about \$26,000 for out of state residents. Missoula's northern location faces an average winter temperature of 18°F and summer temperature of 87°F. Missoula faces a fairly dry climate with an average rainfall of 15 inches and an average snowfall of 40 inches. Montana has a fairly conservative state legislature, with one senator for each party as well as one republican in the house of representatives, however, Missoula as a city and a county voted democratically in the past five presidential elections. In terms of ethnic breakdown, 88.6% of Missoula's population identifies as white and non-hispanic, with the next largest ethnic group being the 3.4% of the population that identify as biracial or multiracial and hispanic. The University of Montana's students population reflects a similar degree of diversity with 79% of students identifying as white and 4% hispanic.

2) short summary of the plan(s)—when were they written, what “kind” of plan were they (i.e. a broad sustainability plan w/ a climate section, a technical GHG reduction plan, etc.)—keep to one paragraph and try to be factual and concise

The University of Montana published its Climate Action Plan in 2010. The CAP was co-authored by UM's sustainability coordinator and ASUM's sustainability coordinator, with input provided by a technical working group. The Sustainable Campus Committee, comprised of faculty, staff, administrators, and students, worked together to advise and provide support during the planning process. The University of Montana's Climate Action Plan is more technical and concentrates on GHG reduction. Mitigation strategies collected through the public engagement process were analyzed for emission reduction potential, energy savings, and cost. Three scenarios were created to reach carbon neutrality by 2020 and compared to a "business as usual" base. UM's Sustainability Council committed itself to monitor and reporting progress while adjusting for new goals. However, the carbon neutrality deadline of 2020 has passed, with no update on UM's current path to neutrality.

3) working summary of key successes and challenges (this can evolve, just do your best

The most persistent challenges noted include lack of funding, minimal stakeholder support, and environmental concerns. Projects with considerable emission reduction potential, such as biomass and wind energy, remain challenging to fund due to their high costs. Gaps in data collection are often cited as an issue, preventing further implementation of possible mitigation strategies. UM continues to see declining enrollment, which has created an institutional narrative of scarcity. A lack of resources prevents administrators from investing in CAP planning and implementation. However, The University of Montana has found some success. Some of the mitigation strategies in the CAP have been implemented, which has provided UM with informative quantitative data.

4) name who was interviewed, their title, and by whom

- Eva Rocke, sustainability director, interviewed by Jessie and Nic
- Peter McDonough, program coordinator of climate change studies program, interviewed by Jessie and Meghan