

SCHOOL: Utah State University

1) Utah State University is a public land grant university located in Logan, Utah, a state that is more conservative-leaning. Established in 1888, USU has an annual enrollment at about 28,000 students and an endowment of about \$403 million. USU is located along a central latitude and experiences a wintery climate. As of 2019, the University was reporting through STARS, with total emissions sitting at approximately 86,000 metric tons of CO₂e.

2) Utah State developed their climate action plan in 2010 but in 2020 committed to an updated sustainability plan that focuses on tracking and reducing the institution's carbon output. After a resolution focused on assessing and mitigating carbon output on campus was passed through the faculty senate last year (after a change in leadership), the new plan was developed. According to Zac Cook, it has been successful in centralizing leadership and interdepartmental collaboration within the institution. The 2020 Sustainability Plan is focused primarily on achieving a high ranking STARS status and has tasked their Sustainability Council with oversight responsibilities as they strive to engage new community stakeholders. With implementation, USU monitors specific targets for carbon reduction include travel, food, recycling, and emissions across campus. Finally, the new plan focuses on developing a culture within the University rooted in sustainability and is committed to assessing progress in both 2020 and again in 2023.

3) Prior to the 2020 Sustainability Plan, Utah State struggled with garnering the political capital to effectively develop and implement a CAP. However, a recent change in leadership and subsequently in priorities has given way for a more targeted and collaborative effort at reducing carbon output. This has not only seen an updated plan but as of this year has seen a 7% reduction in campus wide carbon output. Notwithstanding, the University is still highly dependent on natural gas which was cited by Zac Cook as the primary barrier standing between the University and a higher STARS ranking and overall reduction in carbon emissions.

4) Interviews:

- Alexi Lamm, USU Sustainability Coordinator in the Facilities Planning Design Office, interviewed by Nicole and Megan
- Zac Cook, Energy Manager in the Utilities and Energy Management Department, interviewed by Dominic