

## **SCHOOL: Weber State University**

1) Weber State University is located in Ogden, Utah, just north of Salt Lake City. Weber has an enrollment size of around 24,000 students, slightly larger than Montana State University. The university was established in 1889 and is a public institution. In 2019, WSU received a total endowment of \$161.8 million, which is only slightly lower than MSU's endowment for the same year. The university currently has a silver STARS rating but is transitioning toward a gold rating in the following greenhouse gas assessment. Weber's location in a conservative state with relatively cold, snowy winters makes it very similar to MSU both geography and demographic wise.

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

Weber State University's initial Climate Action Plan was written in 2009, and a progress report was published in 2016. As an ACUPCC signatory, Weber's plan is mainly centered around achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2050. Throughout the document, several intermediate GHG reduction goals are set, and different emission mitigation strategies are suggested to reach these goals. These strategies are primarily based around building and infrastructure upgrades, though behavior changes are also included. The CAP recognizes that a paradigm shift by both the student body, faculty, and staff is necessary for the success of the plan. As opposed to data-driven, this plan is predominately strategy-oriented.

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

Weber State University has been very successful at implementing their Climate Action Plan and meeting all the benchmarks they have set out to meet. They have been able to carry out many projects since the adoption of their Climate Action Plan in 2009 that have worked to decrease the university's overall GHG emissions and lessen their contribution to climate change. The biggest cause of this success is the university's green revolving loan fund. This started out as a \$5 million dollar loan with interest to the Energy and Sustainability Office from the university to fund sustainability projects. With the actions taken by the Energy and Sustainability Office, this loan was able to be paid back quickly, proving to the university and its stakeholders that sustainable practices can be economically viable and money-saving. Now, any money that is saved from new sustainability projects is loaned out to the Energy and Sustainability Office for use in more projects. The Energy and Sustainability Office has generated so much money for itself through this system that they have had to slow down on starting some of the projects they want to implement to prevent major student and faculty displacement on the Weber State Ogden campus. This green revolving loan fund is a great source of pride among Weber faculty and has been praised as the main factor in Weber State's success as a leader in college sustainability.

Since the implementation of the green revolving loan fund, Weber hasn't experienced many major obstacles in the implementation of their Climate Action Plan. By proving to the university that actions to increase Weber State's sustainability can be economically beneficial by saving them money, the Energy and Sustainability Office has been able to easily implement new sustainability projects without much pushback. They also take actions to decrease their GHG emissions in such a way that gets students, faculty, and surrounding communities excited about

reducing their own emissions. This includes taking note of a university's community's interests and helping them reduce emissions around those interests. For example, the community around Weber State is really enthusiastic about lawn care. Thus, Weber started a lawn mower exchange wherein anyone can trade in their current gas-powered lawn mower for an electric mower, free of charge. With this lawn mower exchange program, Weber State is helping to decrease GHG emissions in their surrounding community and educating the public about actions they can take to reduce their own emissions.

4) Steve Nabor: Associate Vice President for Financial Services and CFO – interviewed by Dominic Corradino and Julia Haggerty

Katherine Meyr: Student Sustainability Communications Coordinator for the Sustainable Practices and Research Center – interviewed by Nicole Bondurant and Dominic Corradino

Jennifer Bodine: Energy and Sustainability Office – interviewed by Megan Stone and Dominic Corradino