

## **NOTES FROM C3/SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JAYATHI MURTHY**

**1:35 to 2:00 PM, February 9, 2023**

Present: *President Murthy, Paul Odenthal (SAVP for administration), Brandon Trelstad (OSU Sustainability Officer) Kate McTavish (President of OSU Faculty Senate), Keith Jayawickrama & Beth Filar Williams (co-chairs of Faculty Senate Carbon Commitment Committee)*

Presented briefly: Brief history of the plan, C3 development, list of 9 plan actions and money allocations, chart of GHG from 2007 on, decreasing emissions per student.

Dr. Murthy: how and why was this date of 2025 picked? how can we get there/ if we shifted the date would it help?

- In 2008 and 2009 there was a lot of consultation from the OSU community and that helped determine the 2025 carbon neutrality goal.
- We'd like to stop burning natural gas - instead move to heat pump systems - but that is a 20 year plan - see action #8
- We'd like to reinvest in our buildings and infrastructure – building systems and controls; building envelopes (insulation, windows); improving campus utility networks (district utility plants, energy center), and in local renewable energy.
- OSU has considered converting the energy center to all electric. The downside is that would lose redundancy in case the local grid (Pacific Power) goes down. Looking to the researchers at OSU if they can make technological breakthroughs. Scrubbers in the gas burning part of the Energy Center could (maybe) remove the CO<sub>2</sub>. But we are not there yet.
- Another option is generated carbon free electricity.

Dr Murthy's comments:

- Offsets at 41% is too high - we need to go carbon neutral and not just by buying offsets. We can't simply buy our way out of this with carbon offsets. It's our moral imperative.
- We don't want to send OSU money elsewhere buying offsets, invest it here instead take a step back and rethink the goal (2025) that we can move towards
- Can we buy more green energy?
- We need to get real about what is possible in the next decade - we need at this time to do it - don't want to get to 2033 and be having the same conversation of being behind schedule on the goal.
- Suggests we look at the big bars - orange and blue bars of purchased electricity and the co-generation plant (first decimal categories)
  - tackle those areas rather than the second and third decimal categories (changes in how the agricultural land is managed etc.) where we might feel good we are doing something but it doesn't move the needle
- *Response:* Brandon shared the 2022 Plan and its actions are not dependent on neutrality in 2025. The new chart shows what we could do could bring it down to 35% from 2007 - leave us 50% - then need to look at transportation, etc.

Question/Keith: Individual units (Colleges) have discretionary funds, they could be asked to add their efforts and money to help, and have their own plans? Is that true - has heard about the “distributed budget model”?

- Dr. Murthy: “but what can they do on their own, isn’t this a central admin responsibility?”
- Response: They can invest with us / partner for solar on a roof; example – agrivoltaics, farming and forest practices reduce use of diesel.

Question/Keith: Are we saying the Path To Carbon Neutrality needs to be revised with a realistic date to achieve carbon neutrality, actions and funds?

- Dr. Murthy: this should be part of strategic plan.... and set the date (maybe carbon neutral by 2035?) and stick to it, that is realistic and doable — colleges need to be part of the plan. this should be an arm in our strategic plan.
- She stated she will flag Provost Ed Feser to say we need to include this in the Strategic Plan and have a group to work on this area. That we need more than the existing general statement of reducing carbon emissions, but specific plans, actions, dates and funding.

Final notes:

Strategic Plan is being worked on right now. Please submit ideas (Form link)

Thanks for Dr. Murthy’s positive messaging & support on this topic.

*Dr. Murthy “If OSU is going to call itself a leader in sustainability, we must do this. Thanks for convening this meeting.”*