

Scope 3 Emissions Summary of Round 1 Feedback

In October 2024, the Office of Campus Sustainability organized various efforts to gather input from students, faculty, and staff about Scope 3 emissions.

Community Engagement Opportunities to Date

- 4 open houses: Central Campus, North Campus, Dearborn, and Flint
- 2 listening sessions (Student Carbon Neutrality Network and the President's Advisory Committee on Labor Standards and Human Rights)
- Survey



Key Themes

Purchasing and Waste Reduction

- Make sustainable options the standard
- Continue enhancing circular economy efforts, including reuse programs and avoiding single-use items
- Construct a waste sort facility to better manage and control reuse, sorting, and downstream processes
- More resources needed at Flint and Dearborn, especially sustainability staff and waste reduction infrastructure and programming

Commuting and University Travel

- Most conversation around business and academic travel focused on finding alternative fuels or modes of transportation, rather than reducing trips
- Encourage train travel, such as by adjusting SPG language to allow the university to reimburse the cost of train fare
- Work with the city and county to expand public transit options and bike lanes (especially at Flint and Dearborn)
- Increase covered bike parking and electric vehicle chargers
- Look into requiring the purchase of offsets for transportation-related emissions and creating a green travel fund to support units choosing low-carbon travel options
- Address increased athletic travel emissions from the Big Ten expansion

Food

- Seen as a highly successful area on the Ann Arbor campus, with lessons that can be adapted to other campuses
- Prioritize food waste reduction
- Make sustainable options the default choice

Culture and Communication

- Increase awareness and transparency about Scope 3 emissions
- Establish sustainability-focused norms and behaviors that students can carry forward after graduation
- Implement a system and incentives for departments to establish goals and share data, actions, and best practices

Environmental Justice

- Consider implementing equitable carbon pricing that incentivizes low-carbon choices while addressing financial disparities
- Identify areas where U-M can have the greatest impact and focus on a few priorities at a time
- Establish metrics for human rights, labor relations, etc. to measure alongside emissions

Other

- Prioritize strategies based on 1) amount of carbon emissions mitigated, 2) equity, and 3) confidence the strategies will work
- Examine the energy needs of AI applications and develop strategies to reduce its climate footprint
- Join or form consortia with other universities to amplify change in specific industries

