

**Sustainability: The Next Step
Estimating the University of Wisconsin –
Green Bay’s Carbon Footprint**

Summary and Conclusions

**University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Seminar in Environmental Science and Policy
Capstone Course
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When it comes to fossil fuel dependence; UW-Green Bay is no different than the 452 other signatories of the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (Dec. 17, 2007); nor is it different from the other 3 UW campuses chosen to meet the goals of Governor Jim Doyle's Declaration of Energy Independence. The fall 2007 Seminar class not only helped illustrate this dependence, but also where the University is dependent, through its "UWGB Carbon Footprint" presentation and series of reports.

But, the Seminar class did not just provide a status report on where UW-Green Bay is in terms of a GHG emissions inventory; the class provided a rough draft in the development of a new chapter for "Eco-U". This development went forward despite the limited time frame of a semester long project. The project not only offered an opportunity for the students to learn and grow within the realm of Environmental Science and Policy, but also for faculty and staff who assisted in the project. The lessons learned have guided the recommendations that are contained in the reports. However, there are some other recommendations that have stemmed from this project which do not fit into any particular scope recommendations. These include improved record keeping by the university in order to have improved editions of the campus carbon calculator, especially in the areas of amount of gas used by university vehicles and machinery such as lawn mowers, amounts of fertilizer used on university grounds, and air travel by faculty. Also, as mentioned in the presentation, the Capstone class recommends curriculum modifications emphasizing sustainability as a general education requirement, especially for those students majoring in education and business. Finally, what is truly needed are changes to the state budget policy to reward innovative environmental thinking in order to increase

the desire to continue making the campus more environmentally sustainable and get the campus closer to our goal of being off the grid and reaching carbon neutrality.

It is hoped that the Campus Sustainability Committee will take the reports and associated recommendations into consideration as it moves forward in meeting its responsibilities to providing a more sustainable campus. Finally, as UW-Green Bay looks to even greener pastures through its Commitment and the Declaration of Energy Independence, the success of these and other sustainable initiatives will depend on the consistent and collaborative efforts of students, faculty and staff.