

STATUS REPORT
FY 20-21

**V. 5% LOWER
EMISSIONS FROM
PROFESSIONAL
TRAVEL BY 2025**





V. 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025

- Target Actions
- Expand Online Conferencing
 - Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



BASELINE METRIC(S):

- Carbon emissions from professional travel

Q3& Q4 ACTIVITY:

-We are working on gathering information to make the case for reducing travel emissions. We've continued to work on making it easy to update travel data on a monthly bases. basis.
 We met with the Offsets Policy group. They accepted our recommendations that we put together an "internal offsets" program to reduce emissions on campus. We've hired a graduate student to help with this work. She is working with Ellen Moore (Tacoma) to put together a survey to get information about attitudes toward flying, carbon offsets and the pressures to fly.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED:

Data and data support requests have a very slow response time (i.e. weeks). We're working on a way to get this data ourselves.
 We've encountered resistance to purchasing offsets so we've turned our attention to educating ourselves about the benefits and limitations of offsets.

Action Owner:	Claudia Frere-Anderson, UW Sustainability Marilyn Ostergren, UW Sustainability
Target Team:	Travel Reduction Team: Gary Handwerk, Jeremy Hess, Allan Cortina, Alexa Russo, Forrest Baum Offsets Policy Team: Claudia Christensen, Aleanna Kondelis, Monica Acevedo-Soto, Mark Kirschenbaum, Kalina Bathke, Christoph Strouse

ACTION STATUS:



Action: Expand Online Conferencing	
Action: Establish a Bank of High Quality GHG Offsets	

MITIGATING RISKS:

-


FY22 ACTION:


- We've incorporated our ideas for FY22 in the new version of the SAP.




STEPS STATUS:

<p>Action 1: Expand Online Conferencing</p>	<p>Step 1: Develop a UW wide system for measuring avoided air travel in addition to actual air travel.</p>	<p>Step 2: identify incentive programs that encourage use of teleconferencing facilities.</p>	<p>Step 3: Create a recognition program rewarding on-campus innovators.</p>
<p>Action 2: Establish a Bank of High Quality GHG Offsets</p>	<p>Step 1: Make UW's first bulk purchase of offsets through our contracted broker.</p>	<p>Step 2: Work with the broker to set up a GHG offsets bank for use by faculty & staff travelers</p>	<p>Step 3: Increase visibility of the travel offsets program across campuses and engage students for project identification of carbon offsets</p>

 **Note:** Copy and Paste the appropriate 'status icon' to the right of each **Step #** above to complete the Steps Status.

 **Step #**

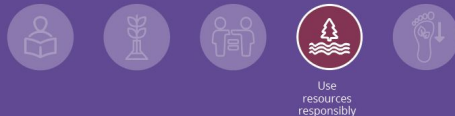


V. 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025

Target Actions

- Expand Online Conferencing
- Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

Sustainability Plan guiding principle



ACTION:

Expand Online Conferencing



Steps we will take in FY 2021


1. Develop an enterprise-wide system for measuring online attendance (avoided air travel) in addition to actual air travel. Compare 2005 baseline with reductions achieved during the period of intensive COVID-related travel restrictions, and reassess the numerical Target as of July 1, 2021. Review the financial impact savings from reduced air travel and associated costs.
2. UW Sustainability advocate across campus for intensified use of existing teleconferencing facilities. Begin identifying incentive programs that encourage use of teleconferencing facilities. This could be used in support of a UW-wide policy level change with increasing centralized tracking and reporting of air travel.
3. Create a recognition program rewarding on-campus innovators. The structure is yet to be determined, but it is likely to (1) provide separate awards for the three campuses; (2) include one class of award(s) based on a quantitative GHG reduction metric, and (3) include one class of award(s) based on an individual's innovation, leadership or advocacy.
4. Lobby the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for inclusion of professional air travel as a mandatory credit in version 3.0 of the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS). Concurrently, reach out to other national and regional sustainability related conference organizers to encourage use of telepresence.

Statuses and linkages

Beginning with UW's 2017 greenhouse gas inventory (and accompanying baseline adjustment process), the University has established a methodology for computing a significant percentage of total professional air travel miles each year from existing data sources.

Academic departments are actively seeking opportunities to promote hyper-local conferencing.

Financing

 The recognition program can be funded with a surcharge applied to internal purchases of greenhouse gas offsets (see below).

Metrics

- The primary metric for Action success will be the travel footprint described in Step 1.

STARS does not include a credit representing this change directly.

Expand Online Conferencing

NO
PROGRESS

ON TIME

SOME
PROGRESS

STEP 1:

Develop an enterprise-wide system for measuring online attendance (avoided air travel) in addition to actual air travel. Compare 2005 baseline with reductions achieved during the period of intensive COVID-related travel restrictions, and reassess the numerical Target as of July 1, 2021. Review the financial impact savings from reduced air travel and associated costs.

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

- As before, we haven't attempted to measure *avoided* air travel.
- We've continued to refine the data collection process (working to be able to update the values monthly)

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

- Very slow response time from requests to the DataGroup (though they've been very cooperative and supportive).

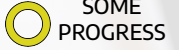
PLAN FOR FY22:

-

Expand Online Conferencing

NO
PROGRESS

ON TIME

SOME
PROGRESS

STEP 2:

UW Sustainability advocate across camps for intensified use of existing teleconference facilities. Begin identifying incentive programs that encourage use of teleconferencing facilities. This could be used in support of a UW-wide policy level change with increasing centralized tracking and reporting of air travel

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

- As in Q1 & 2, we haven't done anything to advocate for intensified use of existing teleconference facilities since we aren't on campus to use them.
- We are working on gathering information to make a case for reducing travel emissions (we're hiring a graduate student to do this).

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

-

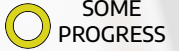
PLAN FOR FY22:

- This isn't on our list of actions for the next fiscal year

Expand Online Conferencing

NO
PROGRESS

ON TIME

SOME
PROGRESS

STEP 3:

Create a recognition program rewarding on-campus innovators. The structure is yet to be determined, but it is likely to (1) provide separate awards for the three campuses; (2) include one class of award(s) based on a quantitative GHG reduction metric, and (3) include one class of award(s) based on an individual's innovation, leadership or advocacy.

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

- We've identified a "lead" on our team for this work, but don't consider it high priority so we haven't focused on it.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

-

PLAN FOR FY22:

-

METRICS & LINKAGES:

Beginning with UW's 2017 greenhouse gas inventory (and accompanying baseline adjustment process), the University has established a methodology for computing a significant percentage of total professional air travel miles each year from existing data sources. Academic departments are actively seeking opportunities to promote hyper local conferencing

METRICS:

- As mentioned earlier, we're getting closer to being able to update our travel data on a monthly basis.

LINKAGES:

-



ACTION:

Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets



Steps we will take in FY 2021

1. Make UW's first bulk purchase of offsets through our contracted broker.
2. Work with the broker to set up a GHG offsets bank for use by faculty & staff travelers.
3. Increase visibility of the travel offsets program across campuses, focusing on faculty and staff and engage students for project identification for carbon offsets, while inviting student research projects that evaluates the cost of carbon.

Statuses and linkages

This is linked to offsetting emissions through air travel in the instance when air travel is the only option. The contract with the offsets broker has been secured. However, UW still needs to make decisions regarding quality and source of offsets to purchase. This effort will be led by UW Sustainability and UW Facilities, but include broad outreach to the students, staff and faculty and engagement for educational opportunities.

Financing

No additional financing required for FY 2021. This will be coordinated through current staffing from UW Facilities and Procurement Services.

Metrics

- The primary metric for Action success will be the ratio of air travel offsets purchased, divided by total quantity of air travel reported in UW's annual GHG inventory.

AASHE STARS does not address professional travel emissions



GOING BEYOND
AAHSE STARS



Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

NO
PROGRESS

ON TIME

SOME
PROGRESS

STEP 1:

Make UW's first bulk purchase of offsets through our contracted broker.

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

- We're not ready to do this.

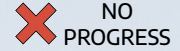
CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

- We need policies and procedures in place to define when and how to buy offsets before making a purchase.
- We need to calculate how many offsets we'll need and haven't turned our attention to that task.

PLAN FOR FY22:

- Our goal will be to finalize a policy and procedure to determine when we want to purchase offsets.

Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

NO
PROGRESS

ON TIME

SOME
PROGRESS

STEP 2:

Work with the broker to set up a GHG offsets bank for use by faculty & staff travelers.

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

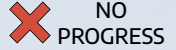
- We met with the Offsets Policy group. They accepted our recommendations that we put together an “internal offsets” program to reduce emissions on campus.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

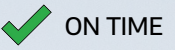
-

PLAN FOR FY22:

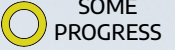
- Put together an “internal offsets” program to reduce emissions on campus.



NO PROGRESS



ON TIME



SOME PROGRESS

Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

STEP 3:

Increase visibility of the travel offsets program across campuses, focusing on faculty and staff and engage students for project identification for carbon offsets, while
ACTION: Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets inviting student research projects that evaluates the cost of carbon.

ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JAN - JUNE 2021:

- We've hired a student who is working with Ellen Moore (Tacoma) to put together a survey to get information about attitudes toward flying, carbon offsets and the pressures to fly.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JAN - JUNE 2021:

-

PLAN FOR FY22:

-

METRICS & LINKAGES:

This is linked to offsetting emissions through air travel in the instance when air travel is the only option. The contract with the offsets broker has been secured. However, UW still needs to make decisions regarding quality and source of offsets to purchase. This effort will be led by UW Sustainability and UW Facilities, but include broad outreach to the students, staff and faculty and engagement for educational opportunities

METRICS:

- Baseline metric: 2019 Scope 3 GHG data

LINKAGES:

-

