

**Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Strategic Priority Funding  
Step 2: Invited Full Proposal**

Sub-Meet Use Only  
4  
Proposal Tracking  
Number

Proposal Name: **A Climate Action Plan for MSU, M**

Total Strategic Priority Funding Requested for Expenditure in FY15 (2014-2015) \$ **20,000**

The proposed project supports the following 2010-2015 Strategic Priority: (Check all that apply)

- Global Solutions** - Change the world by collaboratively addressing our planet's most challenging problems.
- Applied Doctoral Institution** - Foster the thriving and robust academic culture of a university with applied doctoral programs.
- Extended Learning** - Greatly expand the reach of our extended learning programs.
- Campus of the Future** - Reinvigorate our physical home and build the campus of the future.
- Quality and Excellence** - Measure and continuously improve our work to ensure excellence in all that we do.

What Strategic Priority Action Item(s) from the University's 2010-2015 Strategic Plan does the proposed project address ([http://www.mnsu.edu/planning/strategic\\_plan\\_progress\\_7\\_1\\_13.pdf](http://www.mnsu.edu/planning/strategic_plan_progress_7_1_13.pdf))?

Action Item "Develop and implement a three-year plan to enhance a campus culture of energy conscious behavior and sustainable lifestyle" under Strategic Priority "Create the Campus of the Future."

Also, Strategic Objectives under the Strategic Priorities "Promote Global Solutions" and "Think and Act like a Doctoral Institution."

Do the proposed project outcomes address any of the following Institutional Priority Measures?  
If yes, check all that apply:

- Student Persistence and Completion
- Student Persistence and Completion for Students of Color
- Student Degree Completion
- Student Degree Completion for Students of Color
- Related Employment of Graduates

Are funds from any other sources needed to initiate and complete the project as proposed? No

- Institutional Equipment \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Repair and Replacement (R&R) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Departmental Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- College or Divisional Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- External/Grant Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Contact Information and Review Signatures:**

Primary Contact Name Erica Johnson Campus Mailing Address WA132

Primary Email Address erica.johnson@mnsu.edu Phone Number 389-5254

**Please note:**

- Upon notification of funding, the primary contact recipient will work with the Assessment and Evaluation Sub-Meet to prepare an assessment plan. Funds will only be released upon successful completion and approval of the assessment plan.
- A Mid-Year Report will be due January 12, 2015, and an Annual Report will be due June 30, 2015.

Primary Contact Signature *Erica MBS Johnson* Date 1/14/2014

Co-Applicant Name(s) and Signature(s):

Louis Schwartzkopf *Louis Schwartzkopf* Date 1/14/2014

Michael Hanson *Michael Hanson* Date 1/14/2014

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the following proposal:

Department Director/Chair Signature\* *Erica MBS Johnson* Date 1/14/2014

Department Director/Chair Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Chair Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Chair Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dean Signature\* *Ronald Fields* Date 1.14.2014

Dean Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dean Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dean Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Division/Vice President Signature\* *Rebecca* Date 1/14/14

Division/Vice President Signature\* *[Signature]* Date 1/15/14

Division/Vice President Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**RECEIVED**

Date Received by Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment: *[Signature]* **JAN 14 2014**

**(Deadline is January 15, 2014)**

\*Signatures needed for all affected units, departments and colleges.  
Attach additional cover/signature sheets as needed.

Academic Affairs  
Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Strategic Priority Funding Proposal**  
**Full Proposal: Step 2**

*(Please limit the proposal narrative and attachments to 10 pages)*

Proposal Name:     **A Climate Action Plan for MSU, M**    

(Increase space between questions or add pages as needed)

**1. Provide a clear description of the project being proposed. (5 points)**

Funding is requested to develop a climate action plan (CAP) for MSU, M. A CAP is a plan to reduce a college's or university's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The first step in a plan is to establish a baseline carbon footprint, an assessment of all the greenhouse gases emitted by the University in a given period of time, generally a year. The plan then sets goals for reductions of GHG emissions and strategies for achieving these goals. The strategies are generally grouped into areas such as conserving energy use (both for heat and for lighting) in existing buildings, reducing emissions from commuting to campus, upgrading energy production by the central plant, increasing renewable energy use, reducing waste, increasing recycling, etc. Within each group, short-, medium-, and long-term strategies are identified. Our request is for \$20,000 to have Sebesta Blomberg or some other Consultant assist us in developing the plan.

We have recently completed the first step, a baseline carbon footprint for the campus. The footprint was completed Fall Semester 2013 by Sebesta Blomberg in partnership with Facilities Management at a cost of \$9,900 provided by the administration. A report was sent to the administration, and the findings of the report were presented to the Environmental Committee and the campus community by a Sebesta Blomberg representative on September 24, 2013. A main finding was that in FY 2012 the main contributions to GHG emissions on campus were from electricity (63%); natural gas and fuel oil combustion for building heating and hot water (24%); and commuting (12%).

The carbon footprint is important because it gives us a quantitative assessment of the relative amount of GHG emissions from each source, and because it provides a baseline against which improvements can be measured. The next step is to develop the plan (the CAP) to reduce our GHG emissions. The development of the plan will make use of the expertise of and be facilitated by the Consultant, and will proceed in a number of steps:

- The Consultant will collect data on MSU, M, including the existing condition of campus buildings, previous campus initiatives to conserve energy and advance sustainability, projected changes in campus population and facilities, and financial resources available for new sustainability initiatives.
- The Consultant will facilitate a kick-off workshop on campus involving representatives of all stakeholder groups, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the greater Mankato community, to identify realistic sustainability goals, in light of the data from the carbon footprint and the data about the campus collected by the Consultant.
- The Consultant will conduct a comprehensive review of possible strategies and action steps to achieve the goals, including an analysis of costs, payback, and GHG reduction potential.
- University leadership, including representatives from all the stakeholder groups, will review and approve the strategies and action steps that are feasible and appropriate, given the resources available to the University.
- Representatives from the University will write the CAP with guidance from and using a template provided by the Consultant. The Consultant will review and comment on the plan.
- The final plan will be submitted to the University administration, and the Consultant and the writing team will formally present the plan to the University community.

**2. Identify the 2010-2015 Strategic Priority advanced by this project and explain the direct connection between the strategic priority and project. (20 points)**

The Strategic Priority advanced by this project is "Create the Campus of the Future." In particular, this project directly addresses the Action Item "Develop and implement a three-year plan to enhance a campus culture of energy conscious behavior and sustainable life style." Enhancement of the campus culture will begin at the initial stakeholders' workshop where possible strategies to reduce campus GHG emissions are considered; one outcome of the initial kick-off meeting is that all stakeholders will become more aware of possible options. Subsequent analysis of costs, paybacks, and GHG reduction potentials by the Consultant, selection of final strategies, and the presentation of the final report will increase awareness of the campus community not only of the selected strategies but will also provide the community a quantitative idea of their effectiveness and cost-savings potential, thereby achieving the stated goal of the Action Item, "...to enhance a campus culture of energy conscious behavior and sustainable lifestyle."

In addition, this project will advance the Strategic Priority, "Promote Global Solutions." A CAP is by its nature a multidisciplinary project. The creation and implementation of the plan will involve all the stakeholders in the process – administrators, faculty, staff, and students – and thus will meet the Strategic Objective, "Lower the walls between academic disciplines and between academic and non-academic employees ... ." The plan will also meet the Strategic Objectives "Differentiate our University from competitors for students and for financial and political support" and "Build an engaging, truthful and coherent story that will be told to prospective and current students, alumni/ae, donors and other friends of the University." By committing to the CAP, the University will establish itself as a forward-thinking institution committed to addressing the global problem of global warming / climate change, and it will do so in a practical way, by specifying how it will reduce its own GHG emissions. The CAP will tell "an engaging, truthful and coherent story" that will show that MSU, M is a modern university committed to addressing one of the most pressing problems that the global community faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Finally, the plan would "Prepare students to be innovative leaders in their professions and communities (Strategic Objective 1) by providing an example of a practical approach to the solution of a real-world problem, reducing the University's GHG emissions, and by suggesting to faculty research and class projects that students can work on.

This project will also advance the Strategic Priority "Think and Act Like a Doctoral Institution," since the comprehensive list of strategies in the CAP will provide faculty ideas for research and sustainability projects that can involve students.

**3. Describe how the project will have a significant impact on students and deliver a significant return on investment to the university. (15 points)**

The strategies and action steps in the CAP will suggest meaningful activities and research projects for faculty and students, and thus increase student persistence and completion. Students working on these activities and research projects will acquire skills in working with real-world problems which will better prepare them for employment on graduation.

Committing to a CAP will establish MSU, M as a leader in addressing one of the most important problems that the global community faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) website<sup>1</sup> notes, "Increasingly, leadership on climate and sustainability provides a key advantage in recruiting top students, faculty and staff, and fostering the support of donors, alumni and local communities." Many high school students are well aware of the problem of global warming / climate change, and when choosing universities seek schools that show a commitment to addressing it.

Finally, implementing the CAP will reduce energy use and cost. Again from the ACUPCC website, "A comprehensive, strategic plan can enhance existing sustainability activities and inspire new ones, without which, *ad hoc* efforts in ... operations may cost more and be less cost effective." MSU, M has already achieved such energy and cost savings through its participation in the State of Minnesota's

Public Building Energy Efficiency Enhancement Program (PBEEEP), which identified and implemented savings by adjusting the operation of the University's HVAC system. For an initial investment of \$19,000 the University anticipates saving \$13,000 a year in energy costs. It is expected that the CAP will identify a series of strategies for additional energy and cost savings.

#### Reference

<sup>1</sup> [http://www2.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/documents/BenefitsofjoiningtheACUPCC\\_000.pdf](http://www2.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/documents/BenefitsofjoiningtheACUPCC_000.pdf)

#### **4. Identify the specific measurable outcomes that will be used to measure the impact of the project. (10 points)**

Intermediate outcomes will be –

- a list of possible GHG emission reduction strategies and action steps including analysis of costs, paybacks, and GHG emissions reduction potentials for the short-term strategies and action steps, from the Consultant;
- the list of strategies and action steps agreed on by University leadership (including representatives from the administration, faculty, staff, and students) to be included in the final plan.

The final outcomes will be a climate action plan, submitted to the President and Cabinet, and a presentation of the plan to the university community and the community at large at a campus-wide meeting.

When the strategies and action steps in the plan are implemented, outcomes will be reductions in campus GHG emissions, and energy and operational cost savings.

Other outcomes will be: awareness among the campus community of methods to reduce campus GHG emissions, participation in a coordinated way of faculty, staff and students to reduce campus GHG emissions, and faculty and student research and class projects inspired by the plan.

#### **5. Describe how the activities generated by this project will be sustained after strategic priority funding has ended, or if applicable, explain why the project does not need to be sustained. (5 points)**

The climate action plan will list the activities, along with the responsible persons and the resources necessary to carry out the activities. Feedback from the administration and other stakeholders during the creation of the plan will insure that there are adequate personnel and resources to carry out these activities.

#### **6. Provide a budget justification that explains why the funding being requested is required to support the project and outline the funding requested within the budget table below. (10 points)**

A Consultant will provide the professional services described for an estimated fee of \$19,000 plus reimbursable expenses of \$1,000.

The writing of the plan will be done by a volunteer writing team from the Environmental Committee under the guidance of the Consultant. Savings to the University will thus be realized by this support from the Environmental Committee, rather than having the Consultant write the plan at additional expense.

Budget table:

	FY15 SPF Funds	FY15 Funds from all Other Sources
Personnel		
Unclassified Salary (in-load, overload)		
Classified Salary		
Fringe <sup>a</sup> (Classified and Unclassified)		
Graduate Assistant Salary		
Graduate Assistant Tuition Reduction/Waiver <sup>b</sup>		
Non-Salary		
Student Help		
Purchased Services/Travel Expenses	\$20,000	
Supplies and Materials		
Building Improvement/Construction Costs		
Equipment		
Other (please specify)		
<b>Total Budget/Funding Requested</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	

<sup>a</sup>Note: All current employees must be paid fringe benefits. Fringe should be estimated based on salary and position classification: Unclassified 32%, Classified 40%, Adjunct 7.65%.

<sup>b</sup>Estimated Tuition Reduction/Waiver for full-year enrollment: Masters \$6,600, Doctoral \$9,600.

**7. Identify any special considerations or needs required for this project and how the needs will be addressed (e.g. physical space, contractual obligations, IT support, or collaborations with/implications for other units). (5 points)**

No special needs are anticipated for this project. A special consideration is the invitation of individuals to the initial kick-off workshop to insure an adequate representation by the various stakeholders, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the community at large. Individuals to be invited will be determined by the administration in collaboration with the Environmental Committee and Facilities Management.

**8. Provide a 1-year project timeline outlining key tasks and dates for completion. (5 points)**

Date	Task
Aug 2014	Identify representatives of stakeholder groups to attend kick-off workshop
Sept 2014	Hold kickoff workshop and identify a list of potential strategies and action steps
Oct & Nov 2014	Analyze and evaluation strategies from the list (Consultant)
Dec 2014 & Jan 2015	Review and approve strategies and action steps to be included in the CAP (University leadership)
Feb – Apr 2015	Write the CAP (writing team)
Apr 2015	Present CAP to Pres. Davenport and presentation of CAP to the University community