

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):

2019 Professional Travel Emissions:  
Waiting for this

## Q1 ACTIVITY:

We formed a team for action 1 (faculty students and staff) and have been focusing on getting data, processing data and planning engagement with academic departments.

Formation of Workgroup from Offsets RFP committee who met with ACT Commodities/Evergreen Carbon. Goal to establish Master Contract agreement by end of the year.

## CHALLENGES:

The data collection and processing is somewhat complex, cumbersome and confusing (as well as being incomplete).

Currently UW does not have formal policy or guideline for offsets purchases. The RFP process enabled us to review types of offsets providers. The work now is to develop a criteria for the types of offset purchases that would be endorsed by the University.

<b>Action Owner:</b>	Claudia Frere-Anderson, UW Sustainability Marilyn Ostergren, UW Sustainability
<b>Target Team:</b>	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:



<b>Action:</b> Expand Online Conferencing	
<b>Action:</b> Establish a Bank of High Quality GHG Offsets	

## RISKS:

Prices for carbon offsets could increase as a result of higher demand.




## NEXT QUARTER ACTION:


We plan to put together department-specific data and begin discussions with pilot departments to explore strategies for promoting reduction efforts.


Complete a Master contract agreement. Engage Program on the Environment Student group to research offsets criteria.




## STEPS STATUS:

<p><b>Action 1:</b> Expand Online Conferencing</p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b>  Develop a UW wide system for measuring avoided air travel in addition to actual air travel.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b>  identify incentive programs that encourage use of teleconferencing facilities.</p>	<p><b>Step 3:</b>  Create a recognition program rewarding on-campus innovators.</p>
<p><b>Action 2:</b> Establish a Bank of High Quality GHG Offsets</p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> Make UW's first bulk purchase of offsets through our contracted broker.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b> Work with the broker to set up a GHG offsets bank for use by faculty &amp; staff travelers</p>	<p><b>Step 3:</b> 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 #** above to complete the Steps Status.

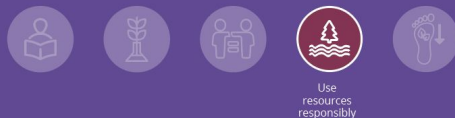


## V. 5% LOWER EMISSIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL BY 2025

### 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

### 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 JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

- We haven't attempted to measure *avoided* air travel.
- We've worked on repeating the process set in place to calculate carbon emissions for professional travel. As of 11/16/20 we're close, but do not yet have a number.
- We've asked for (and received) travel data that includes the names of the associated departments).
- We've had discussions with several departments to determine where our existing data sources are missing significant amounts of professional travel

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

We've found it challenging to go through the data gathering and calculations that Roel set up. It's complex and our data doesn't seem to align with the instructions.

#### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

We're actively continuing the process of working with this data. Once we have it fully processed, we'll work on ways to present it at both the University level and at the unit level to understand how this information can be leveraged to motivate behavior change.

## Expand Online Conferencing

### 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 JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

For obvious reasons we haven't done anything to advocate for intensified use of existing teleconference facilities.

We are working toward meeting with individual academic departments (at first on a pilot basis) to understand the data and how to present it to departments. That will be a context in which we can address the question of incentives.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

It's been slow going to get data that we can use to reflect back to departments. We're uncertain what the appropriate level of academic unit to address.

#### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

## Expand Online Conferencing

### 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 JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

We've discussed the concept of incentivizing travel reduction and want to bring the question of what this might look like to the Executive Committee.

We want to ensure that we consider the relative impact on faculty (and others) at different points in their careers. We also want to consider the differential impact on BIPOC individuals.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

We haven't gone beyond discussion, but we do seem to have a hard time knowing how to move forward with this.

#### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

This will be based on feedback we get from the Executive Committee.

## 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:

Baseline Metric:

- We're focusing on our calculated professional travel emissions as our metric.

### LINKAGES:

There is a clear relation between this action and the offsets action. Our interactions with academic units will include discussions about ideal scenarios for mitigating travel that we don't want to eliminate.





# 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

## STEP 1:

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

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

Instructions: Replace this text with 2-6 bullet points with 1-2 sentences each describing work completed during this period and progress made.

- Met with RFP Committee in August to discuss the scope of work for this target.
- Developed a Workgroup Team including Procurement Services, UW Facilities Finance, Utilities and UW Sustainability
- Met with selected vendor from RFP - ACT/Evergreen
- Developed a project timeline to finalize master agreement and selection of project criteria to recommend to Policy Committee.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

No challenges encountered. We met with ACT Commodities and Evergreen Carbon to understand their relationship for the master agreement. Procurement Services will create the master agreement and UW Facilities Finance will manage scopes of the purchases.

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

Create the Master agreement and make prepare for meeting with Policy Committee to discuss the types of projects we want to purchase. A voluntary offsets program will need to identify how UW departments will make voluntary purchases. We are also keeping in close touch with Utilities Operations and the potential for what renewable natural gas could do for this program, i.e., do we decide that renewable natural gas is an option for departments who want to offset their professional travel?



# Establish a Bank of High-Quality GHG Offsets

## STEP 2:

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

### ACTIONS THAT OCCURRED/ONGOING JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

Instructions: Replace this text with 2-6 bullet points with 1-2 sentences each describing work completed during this period and progress made.

- Met with Wolf Lichtenstein, Principal of Evergreen Carbon for an overview of carbon offsets market.
- Met with ACT Commodities to understand how they work with clients and what typical transaction flow works.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

Instructions: Replace this text with a brief, bulleted description of challenges encountered while trying to implement this step along with ideas for addressing this challenge.

No challenges were encountered.

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

Procurement Services will develop the Master Contract Agreement. The Carbon Offsets Policy Committee will meet in January to provide guidance on a UW Carbon Offsets Program.



# 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 JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

Instructions: Replace this text with 2-6 bullet points with 1-2 sentences each describing work completed during this period and progress made.

- Met with Program on the Environment director and Sustainability Studio Instructor to scope student group project.
- A UW Sustainability graduate student is developing a benchmark analysis to compare how higher ed schools are managing offsets.

### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020:

Instructions: Replace this text with a brief, bulleted description of challenges encountered while trying to implement this step along with ideas for addressing this challenge.

No challenges encountered.

### PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020:

Develop scope of work for POE Winter quarter student project.



## 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:

Instructions: What is the baseline metric(s) for FY 21 and was there any change from that baseline this quarter?

Example:

Baseline Metric:

- Resume the work of the UW Offsets RFP Committee

Change in Baseline Metric:

- NA

### LINKAGES:

Work with Air Travel Reduction group to ascertain amount of travel related GHG emissions. This information will be used to develop an analysis of offsets cost.