| No | Chapter or Topic | Comments | Response |
|----|------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Entire Report | What accountability mechanisms will ensure that Rutgers reaches these climate goals? | This is already in the assignment for each WG to assess for each focus strategy. |
| | | Could you pose an additional question to each working group for them to develop a plan | |
| | | to track their progress and to develop an accountability plan? | |
| 2 | Entire Report | Could you please try to make sure that tangible numeric goals and timelines are set for | Elaborated the existing question "How would progress be evaluated?" with the additional |
| | | each working group once a baseline is established? This could probably be included in the | comment "To the extent they are applicable, what quantitative benchmarks should be |
| | | accountability comment above. | used?" Timescale is addressed by an existing question. |
| 3 | Entire Report | Once the task force has gathered all of the data outlined in this report, it would be easier | Noted, and agreed. |
| | | to fill out a university sustainability report such as the AASHE STARS report. If mechanisms | |
| | | of data collection are established, then it would be possible to report these metrics more | |
| | | easily in the future as well. Filling out a nationally recognized sustainability report like the | |
| | | one provided by AASHE would offer an additional method to track the university's progress, | |
| | | and it would help to promote Rutgers as a climate forward and sustainable school. | |
| | | Potential students interested in sustainability would be attracted to the university. Rutgers | |
| | | students have been trying to complete the AASHE report on their own, in their free time, on | |
| | | and off for the past 4 years with little success. | |
| 4 | Entire Report | | Thank you for the suggestion. We will incorporate this in future drafts for public review. |
| | | make commenting on future documents easier? | |
| 5 | Entire Report | Several sections seemed to be missing information, including short term actionable goals, | All working groups will provide complete responses to their charge questions in their final |
| | | perhaps due to the stresses of Covid 19 some sections were not completed. Is it possible to | ' |
| | | give additional support to working groups that have not completed all of the points in their | Office of the President. |
| | | charge? | |
| | Entire Report | Overall, I think the report was a great start and I am excited to see what it becomes. | We thank the reviewer. |
| 7 | Entire Report | need to wean ourselves off natural gas can't expect to buy offsets as many will be | p.46 we added "Assessment of technological options, costs and benefits to electrify natural |
| | | steering toward that plan anyway. | gas boilers and phase out natural gas" |
| 8 | Entire Report | plan for eventual decommissioning of the cogen on campus | On p. 44 we added "The co-generation plant upgrades have an expected life of 35 years at |
| | | | which we expect they will be de-commissioned and replaced with electricity that is carbon- |
| | | | free. Analysis of early de-commissioning will be conducted." |
| 9 | Entire Report | plan to align "shovel ready" energy projects for anticipated ARRA kinds of federal | Added to page 50: Energy audits and upgrades: Facilities will be working to identify a |
| | | infrastructure/stimulus money | prioritized list of buildings for audits and upgrades. They will work with PSE&G state |
| | | | programs to conduct energy audits and incentivized building upgrades along with any |
| | | | federal economic recovery money that becomes available |
| 10 | Entire Report | Need to study the divestment option as a mode of redirecting investment internally to | Divestment is not a manner of lowering carbon footprint, since the endowment's choice of |
| | | save money and energy in the future AND lowering carbon footprint together | excluding fossil fuel companies from its diversified funds would have no affect on the |
| | | | ability of fossil fuel companies to raise capital. Divestment is a prudential choice and a |
| | | | political choice. Redirection of the share of the endowment in diversified funds in order to |
| | | | make internal investments would have the potential to reduce Rutgers' carbon footprint, |
| | | | but this would also be true if Rutgers were already divested. |

| 11 | | Spelling of the word discounted | Pg 4 does not appear to include the word discounted. |
|----|-------------------|---|---|
| 12 | | Risk Management should have a list of university vehicles | Thank you for the information. We will be in contact with Risk Management as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| 13 | Executive Summary | Wkgroup 1: energy & buildings: now only applies to Rutgers buildings& off-campus housing. Suggest that RU should do this in a way that can be replicable by other colleges; can develop joint pilot project is Camden, New Brunswick/Piscataway & Newark with the local/county governments, e.g DevCo. In addition to meeting LEED Silver Standards, all new RU buildings should offset their projected emissions by planing more trees and/or putting solar over the new parking lots. | At first, Rutgers will likely be learning from many other universities that have gone before us. Participation in UC3 will facilitate both learning and modeling our successes as we go forward. LEED standards have land use and ecosystem services as part of their rating system and the land use and offsets committee will likely also address this. https://www.usgbc.org/guide/bdc#rating |
| 14 | Executive Summary | Wkgroup 5: Land Use & Offsets: certain that Wkgp includes "vegetation" but should emphasis more, e.g. not cutting trees &, if need to do so, replace with a ratio that will replace the CO2 absorption of the tree(s) removed - this means not replacing a large tree with 2/3 tiny trees - we need the reductions now. All new construction should include enough trees planted to offset its projected emissions. Partner with local/county governments on tree planing projects, e.g along right-of-ways. | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |
| 15 | Executive Summary | What is the visibility gap between preferred solutions and carbon emission reductions? (edit after reading page 24, that explains it a bit more. Are you trying to say that the solutions students want are the visible ones and the solutions needed are less visible? Or that you need to communicate more with students about which solutions are best? | We are not claiming that participants are enthusiastic about solutions because they are visible. Rather, participants are aware of, and offering solutions for, the problems that they see in their everyday experience, which are often not the most carbon intensive. The explanation of the visiblity gap in section 1.5 has been edited to provide more clarity. At this point, we are identifying that the gap exists. During Phase 2, we will evaluate ways to close this gap |
| 16 | Executive Summary | Given that NJ EDA is working to establish a green bank, and that covid-19 is impacting planning to create a green revolving fund, would it make sense to partner with the Green Bank in some way? | Thank you for the suggestion. We will explore this option. |
| 17 | Executive Summary | Green-e certified' should be 'Green e-certified' | "Green-e certified" is correct |
| 18 | Executive Summary | NOW is the time to do Energy Efficency (EE) improvements - while students, faculty & staff are away. RU's Buildings department should have id'd target facilities based upon their usage/cost. Should do a EE whole building approach - eventually for all RU buildings. Prioritize EE based upon cost/benefit. | COVID19 that make it difficult to actually do Energy Efficiency projects right now, but the plan is to do audits and undertake retrofits and operations and maintenance that are efficient. |
| 19 | Executive Summary | Offshore Wind (OSW): our OSW experts,, e.g. Josh Kohut, might do a Purchase Power Agreement (PPA) as soon as possible. Possibly put out an announcement as part of Phase 2 but at least in the Clmate Action Scenarios Report. The final Climate Action Plan should include RU specifically including either a partnership with an OSW developer project and/or with a PPA. Over the next 3 decades OSW will be supplying a large majority of New Jersey'e electricity - it will be much cheaper than other sources (but for EE) - so RU should seriously consider partnering with an OSW developer in the next few years and get in early to save significant monies in the not too distant future. | Rachael Shwom will be researching PPAs over the summer and is well connected with Josh Kohut and the RU Cool and the state wind institute. The report will assess the costs and benefits to the timeline for entering a PPA. |

| 2 | Executive Summary | PHASE 2 Potential Solutions: Rutgers External Stakeholders: RU has a good relationship | Part of the WG charge for Phase 2 is to speak with local communities about their climate |
|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| | | with New Brunswick, Piscataway, Newark & Camden and their counties. We need to | resilience and/or mitigation goals and programs, as well as their social equity strategies. |
| | | involve them as much as possible in much of this planning - what are their priorities & how | Our definition of equity (in the context of climate positive equitable economic |
| | | can THE State Unversity of New Jersey help them achieve their/our climate/resiliency goals. | development) emphasizes the importance of participation and ensuring that different socia |
| | | Fossil Fuel Transportation has a negative impact on their residents health, e.g. asthma, | groups are involved in decision-making processes. |
| | | and on ungodly traffic - especially during rush hours. We should be very specific about | |
| | | jointly working with our hometowns. There are certainly other communities where we have | |
| | | Rutger facilities, e.g Mercer Community College, Atlantic Cape Community College, | |
| | | Tuckerton but we should first concentrate on the urban areas with Low Minority Income | |
| | | (LMI)/Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. | |
| 2 | Executive Summary | Potential Solutions: IMPLEMENT whole building EE ASAP - do NOT need to wait for Final | In the process of looking at buildings through NJ Clean Energy Programs. This is a |
| | | Climate Action Plan. | continuous process. Though action and benefits are obvious - the staff to make these |
| | | | projects happen are needed. |
| 2 | I.1 Climate Change | The connection between universities being "low carbon intensity" and needing to act more | Universities are low carbon intensity compared to the economy as a whole. This has been |
| | is a Key Risk for the | quickly than the rest of the world in this sentence is unclear. Also, this is the first time that | clarified in the text. Rutgers' largest potential for impact on the state is through our |
| | 21st Century | universities are described as "low carbon intensity", what is meant by this? If it means that | leadership role, not our emissions as such. |
| | | universities don't emit high levels of carbon, this seems to contradict statements that | |
| | | making Rutgers carbon neutral would have a big impact on the state. | |
| 2 | I.1 Climate Change | even if there isn't a specific GREEN stimulus, we should prioritize infrastructure related | Noted. |
| | is a Key Risk for the | stimulus toward our low-carbon goals | |
| | 21st Century | | |
| 2 | I.2 What Makes | Cool! | Noted. |
| | Rutgers Unique | | |
| 2 | I.2 What Makes | Diversity of culture, economics, and experience $[\ldots]$; diversity of economics is an awkward | Edited to read "diversity of economic situtations" |
| | Rutgers Unique | way of phrasing it | |
| 2 | I.2 What Makes | research across all campus[es]' | Edit made |
| | Rutgers Unique | | |
| 2 | 7 General | It is not clear if Scope 1 includes emissions from the embedded energy in products Rutgers | Embedded energy in products is part of Scope 3; we have clarified this. Investment |
| | | purchases and consumes. Some of the content of the report (supply chain) addresses this, | emissions are indeed part of Scope 3 under the GHG Protocol, and we have added a note |
| | | but it should be clear if it's part of the scope. Since Scope 3 includes emissions from | to this effect. |
| | | "sources directly financed by Rutgers' it seems pretty inescapable that this should include | |
| | | emissions from Rutgers' investments, including the endowment. | |

| | I.2 What Makes Rutgers Unique | emissions from investments are not included in the Plan's GHG accounting, I believe (along with many others who have provided input), the Plan should be part of building the "consensus of the University community for divestment." It should draw the clear connection between emissions and RU investments in companies that have fossil fuel | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |
|----|--|--|---|
| | Climate Action in | assets or otherwise participate in and profit from the fossil fuel industry. The official channels mentioned have been pursued several times to no effect. EO 92 directed the BPU to raise the procurement goal from 3,500MW by 2030 to 7,500MW by 2035. https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-92.pdf | Added. |
| 30 | New Jersey i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | On a possibly related note- EO 79 established a council to create the Wind Innovation and New Development (WIND) Institute, and they released their first report April 22, 2020. It seems like something Rutgers scientists could get involved in if they aren't already. | Agreed. Rutgers scientists are already involved in these discussions. |
| | i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | You may want to include a line after this sentence referencing the connection between air pollution and severity of Covid-19 symptoms. | Thank you for this comment. We have included health impacts in the Task Force examination of sectoral impacts. |
| | i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | repitition of phrase 'low- and moderate-income and environmental justice communities' is extremely awkward, both in language and in concept/ feels too euphimistic and detatched | Repitition removed. The term "low- and moderate-income and envrionmental justice commuities" is language from the State Energy Master Plan. We use it here to reference the strategy proposed in that plan, not to advance conceptualizations of such ideas. |
| | i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | Grammar: "integrated" to "integrate" | Edit made |
| 34 | , | EJ and LMI is a high priority for Governor Murphy and his entire administration. RU should put in place a way to tie together every possible area in the next phases and certainly in the Final Report - from health benefits, e.g. whole building EE audits which would coordinate with DEP's lead remediation program and asbestos removal. We should start with pilots in Newark and Camden.RU has a good working relationship with these municipalities. We should focus on working with them and with local community groups in these 3 main cities to do Community Solar whereby we are the large base user of the electricity provided and quite possibly be the location of the solar panels. Consider using for pilots the LMI/EJ census tracts in the RU urban areas. (laid out by Jeanne Herb). Could do community solar pilots with Multi-family housing as well as with LMI homes. | work. |
| | i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | Energy and Buildings: review California's new building codes as well as Europe's for cutting edge technologies, such as mentioned but more so. All new construction should analyze the cost/benefit of these new technologies, e.g. key cards for dorm rooms/lighting. | As part of the next phase of the interim report a team of researchers (Jennifer Senick, Clint Andrews) are analyzing costs and benefits of advanced new construction building standards. |

| i.3. Policy Context for Climate Action in New Jersey | & p.33: Transportation: as mentioned above, RU should work closely with our home cities regarding this leading source of emissions. The commuter survey is worth doing. Columbia University jut did one last month. | |
|---|--|---|
| I.4 Key Recommendations from Pre-Planning Report | collect the information, and/or recruiting interested students to begin working digitally on | An updated list of Rutgers courses that address climate change and a comprehensive list of faculty affiliates through the Rutgers Climate Institute, Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, and Rutgers Energy Institute can be developed over the summer that will provide climate related teaching and research resources at Rutgers. |
| I.4 Key Recommendations from Pre-Planning Report | COVID is terrible and going to put us into an economic tailspin, no doubt. However, climate change is a truly existential threat which requires our action EVEN WHEN we are grappling with the pandemic. We need to fund this effort internally as well as we can. I'm not sure we need outside consultants, but we DO need to make this plan and prioritize our future infrastructure transition to reach zero carbon by some specific time in the future. | Noted and agreed. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. |
| I.4 Key Recommendations from Pre-Planning Report | same comment here. COVID should not be used to delay this super important carbon reduction plan and implementation. | Noted and agreed. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. |
| - ' | I second the concerns and confusion around recycling, particularly in residence halls. Before fixing signage though, it may be worth looking into whether single stream recycling is still the best solution given the high rate of contamination. | |
| | | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |
| | Given that transportation is New Jersey's largest source of carbon emissions, and that electrifying commuter cars and NJ Transit fleets is a priority of the Murhpy Administration's RGGI Spending Plan, it is interesting that switching to electric buses would not do much to reduce Rutgers' emissions. From experience walking and biking along them, they seem to noticibly decrease local air quality. I think it would still be worth investigating ways to help improve air quality on the ground for New Brunswick pedestrians and cyclists. Maybe electric buses or some form of lightrail system would help. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of work. |
| I.5 Feedback on the Pre-Planning Report from Town Halls | _ ' - ' - ' - ' | Edit made |
| | New Brunswick has a similar problem. I'm not sure if there is actually lead in the water, but in my experience not many students like to drink it unless its from one of the filter stations. | |

| | | If stopping the use of single use plastic doesn't sufficiently decrease emissions and is too costly, perhaps the university could compromise with students' desires and ban styrofoam and plastic bag use at campus vendor and takeout locations. | Thank you. There are many environmental benefits in your suggestion. Rutgers Dining has already phased out styrofoam at most of their venues and takeout locations and we will look into the current uses. Reusable bags were provided in 2012-2020. As we move forward with Phase 2, we will take your feedback into account. |
|----|---|---|---|
| | I.5 Feedback on the Pre-Planning Report from Town Halls | Grammar: "a local" should be "as local" | Edit made |
| | | Land Use and Offsets: Rutgers should try our best to avoid "buying" offsets unless it can be easily and transparently proven that they are "real." As noted, this is a very controversial topic. I recommend, if possible, retaining/creating/improving wetlands at an RU site or elsewhere in the State and planting trees/vegetation to offset building. For instance, the recommendation to use "green infrastructure for flood mitigation" is an excellent one | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |
| 48 | I.5 Feedback on the Pre-Planning Report from Town Halls | even making it in this interim phase. Climate devastation is truly antithetical to our mission and values and we should be clear about thatand in harmony with what UCalif system has done. This report shouldn't shirk that by telling divestment advocates to take their message elsewhere. This IS the right place. This would be a good place in the report to highlight the Green revolving investment fund that is mentioned later in the report. And, the best thing to do would be REinvest in those on-campus green activities and have that | 1 ' ' |
| 49 | | fuels is counter productive to the work and goals outlined by the task force, it would be | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | the scenarios need to explicitly include a pathway for weaning ourselves from natural gas. We need to plan for the decommissioning of the Cogen plants. That can be posed here or | p.46 we added "Assessment of technological options, costs and benefits to electrify natural gas boilers and phase out natural gas" and On p. 44 we added "The co-generation plant upgrades have an expected life of 35 years at which we expect they will be decommissioned and replaced with electricity that is carbon-free. Analysis of early de- |
| 51 | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | | Modified. |

| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | Grammar: At the bottom of the page "complied" should be "compiled" | Edit made |
|----|--|--|---|
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | Bottom of the page, discussing transportation survey- Since people's behavior might change post covid 19 with regard to use of public transit it might be helpful to survey post-covid transportation behavior as well. While this data would be short term and not good for long term modeling, it could be used in the short term to help figure out how to get people back on transit safely. Some people may also choose to switch to driving a car in the short term, which could become a longer term trend since a car is a big purchase. When China loosened restrictions, many people purchased cars. | |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | "transpiration" should probably be "transportation" | Edit made |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | Transportation solutions to be examined should explicitly include include electrifying RU bus fleet and working w/ NB to improve traffic flow (bus lanes, etc). Also improved bike routes and infrastructure. They are mentioned elsewhere in the Chapter but seem to be dismissed in the Work Plan. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | EV charging stations electricity use should NOT be subsidized by the University or anyone else. They most probably be charged at real time prices. So, at peak demand they pay peak pricing while at lower demand, e.g. overnight, they wold pay less. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | bottom of page, food Systems; should be food systems (?) | Edit made |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | Food System:The University should, wherever possible, use water coolers, pitchers and glasses for water. Students, staff and faculty should be urged to bring their own reusable bottles, This should be routine practice at all RU conference and programs. This is routinely done at other major universities. | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |
| | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | 1st bullet point; '(lack of payment being and economics are important issues)' awkward/typo? | Edit made |
| 61 | I.7. Next Steps in Climate Action Plan Development | Very important to address not only here but in Chap 1 (1) how carbon sequestation by vegetationand soils on RU propety (stocks vs net change) will enter into carbon accounting and (2) be whether when (& why) offsets would be acceptable and count towards net-zero goal. The only item directly mentioned was travel research and conference trips, presumably not encopmassing commuting (this must be clear. The full report must spell this out as well as the criteria for acceptable offsets (which third-party verification, protocols, registries) | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |

| 62 | I.7. Next Steps in | For the climate preparedness section, some of the broader statements analyzing risk and | Thank you for this comment. We have included health impacts on our examination of |
|----|---------------------|--|--|
| | Climate Action Plan | exposure could include health impacts implicitly, but it might make sense to explicitly | sectoral impacts. |
| | Development | include health as a factor given the current moment and public opinion regarding air | |
| | | pollution, health, and the pandemic. | |
| 63 | I.7. Next Steps in | "Further work will be conducted to generate a comprehensive assessment of current | The analysis of comparable institutions (nationally) will be focused on members of the |
| | Climate Action Plan | Rutgers assets and in-depth research of actions taken or programs implemented by other | University Climate Change Coalition and actions that are outward facing (such as those that |
| | Development | comparable institutions - nationally and internationally" - What type of assessment ? what | have an economic development dimension). The analysis of comparable institutions |
| | | would be the criteria? (not clear) | (internationally) will look at higher education partners of Climate-KIC, a European |
| | | | knowledge and innovation community working towards a climate resilient, zero-carbon |
| | | | economy. |
| 65 | I.7. Next Steps in | The Plan should include commitments to : no net loss of trees and green spaces on RU | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |
| | Climate Action Plan | property/holdings; and permanent protection of (ie, easements on) all RU forests | |
| | Development | | |
| 64 | II.1 Energy and | Grammar: "own" to "owned" | Edit made |
| | Buildings | | |
| | II.1 Energy and | The former ARRA stimulus mechanism will no doubt be recreated in the time of COVID. We | |
| | Buildings | should state with certaintly that we would assess and plan infrastructure projects that would | ļ, |
| | | be suitable for such federal stimulus AND assist us on the pathway to carbon neutrality | programs to conduct energy audits and incentivized building upgrades along with any |
| | U.4.5. I | The state of the s | federal economic recovery money that becomes available. |
| 6/ | II.1 Energy and | This seemed relevant here too- NJ EDA is also creating a Green Bank using RGGI funds | Thank you. This is a great suggestion. All funding sources will be considered. Specifically, |
| | Buildings | which could be helpful | we will review the RGGI Strategic Funding Plan and the opportunity for the Green Bank to |
| 40 | II.1 Energy and | Since this requires a lot of "person hours" maybe it could be pitched as part of a larger | serve as a resource. Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| 00 | Buildings | economic stimulus/jobs plan to help get people back to work post covid, maybe in | our analysis. |
| | Dullulligs | partnership with other orgs trying to create more green jobs. | our analysis. |
| 69 | II.1 Energy and | Yes, we are a state agency, but the new NJ EMP is not very ambitious and stating that we'll | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | Buildings | conform to it is not really making much headway in our planning. Rather we should set | our analysis. |
| | Danamys | priorities that might be much more ambitious and certainly MEET athe EMP, but should | out unarysis. |
| | | definitely go beyond it. | |
| 70 | II.1 Energy and | Grammar: "land us" to "land use" | Edit made |
| | Buildings | | |
| 71 | II.1 Energy and | campus land us[e]' | Edit made |
| | Buildings | | |
| 73 | II.1 Energy and | extra "?" there should be removed | Edit made |
| | Buildings | | |

| 7/ | II.1 Energy and | power purchase agreements might be an option to be considered, but as more and more | p.46 we added "Assessment of technological options, costs and benefits to electrify natural |
|-----|---------------------|---|--|
| | Buildings | | gas boilers and phase out natural gas" and On p. 44 we added "The co-generation plant |
| | Dananigs | supply/demand problem where this becomes too expensive because of potential saturation | |
| | | of sites where wind power can be installed, etc. PPA's are a short term path, but the main | commissioned and replaced with electricity that is carbon-free. Analysis of early de- |
| | | plan needs to focus more on what we can do on our huge lands. | commissioning will be conducted." In the meantime, new construction is a limited |
| | | l. | contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. |
| 75 | II.2 Transportation | In addition to incentivising EV use, what ways can you incentivise mass transit use (when | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| , 0 | in 2 Transportation | | our analysis. |
| | | the state rebates and any parking incentives Rutgers allows. (I see later that transit student | |
| | | discounts are mentioned, but I think it would be worth mentioning transit incentives here | |
| | | as well.) | |
| 76 | II.2 Transportation | plug in travel is WAY lower in carbon footprint and we should definitely incentivize. LOTS of | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | · | EV plug-in infrastructure is important, but even a two-tiered structure for parking passes | our analysis. |
| | | (cheaper for EV and more for gas vehicles) even for cars that don't get to plug in on | , |
| | | campus. The batteries in most new EV's are large enough that drivers can still do lots of | |
| | | their charging at home. The park passes and permissions to plug and the locations for such | |
| | | are Critical. | |
| 77 | II.2 Transportation | what does this paragraph even MEAN??? | Text has been edited for clarity. |
| 78 | II.2 Transportation | what does this paragraph even MEAN??? | Text has been edited for clarity. |
| 79 | II.2 Transportation | In addition to creating new courses, you could hold workshops to help professors frame | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | existing courses through a sustainability lens. For example, a business course about supply | our analysis. |
| | | chain could include a lesson or a common theme of considering sustainability in supply | |
| | | chain decisions. It might also be helpful to flag existing courses in the curriculum as | |
| | | "sustainable". You could do this by tagging them with an icon or listing the applicable | |
| | | sustainable development goals in the description of the course. | |
| 80 | II.2 Transportation | I have also heard about ideas for different light rail- like systems that may be worth | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | | our analysis. |
| | II.2 Transportation | Grammar: "point" to "points," | Edit made |
| 82 | II.2 Transportation | 3 31 | Edit made |
| 84 | II.2 Transportation | As I mentioned in the executive summery comments- While buses are a relatively small | This is not related to the scope of our task force. It could be investigated as a co-benefit |
| | | li i | should buses be electrified. As noted in our report, electrication of buses is a minor |
| | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | component of total transportation GHG emissions, however, we recognize this is a very |
| | | emissions to pollution in these communities and how much they influence local air quality? | visible action and will investigate the feasiblity of doing this. |
| | | From my experiences walking/biking alongside Rutgers buses, they make a noticeable | |
| | | difference in nearby air quality. | |

| 85 | II.2 Transportation | The language her appears to reject or strongly deemphasize electrification of RU bus fleet. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
|----|---------------------|---|---|
| | | | our analysis. |
| | | RU buses very prominent to NB community as well as students – RU should be a leader! | |
| | | The same to promise the community as non-sectional to should see a feature. | |
| 86 | II.2 Transportation | Bus electrification is not a wait and see thing. There are myriad deployments around the | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | country in many different climates and usage scenarios so there is plenty of evidence that it | our analysis. |
| | | could work for us. We shouldn't just wait to see how it works in Camden. We should just | |
| | | move ahead with requiring our bus contractor (First Transit, I think??) to gradually transition | |
| | | to electric over a known and steady time ramped adoption. | |
| 87 | II.2 Transportation | The Northeastern climate is definitely a concern, but can be overcome. Chicago worked | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | with their utility and an electric bus company to pilot electric buses while accounting for | our analysis. |
| | | concerns about the severe cold weather. They were successful, and are now purchasing 20 | |
| | | new buses https://www.transitchicago.com/cta-expands-electric-bus-fleet/ | |
| 88 | II.2 Transportation | Awesome! | Thank you |
| 89 | II.2 Transportation | intergrating to google maps, great idea! Current bus app is terrible/not worth existing; it | Thank you |
| | | does not provide accurate times and weakens credibility of app/bus system generally | |
| 90 | II.2 Transportation | way-finding signage, great idea! | Thank you |
| 91 | II.2 Transportation | Transportation (and land use) components of plan should include clear commitment to | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | 'complete streets' principles in all new RU developments (eg, including of medical and | our analysis. |
| | | other facilities in urban neighborhoods). This is often also an EJ issue, as well as a GHG | |
| | | issue. | |
| 92 | II.2 Transportation | Transpo plan should investigate initiatives recommended in WG 7 section: | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | | our analysis. |
| 93 | II.2 Transportation | - community resilience in the form of charging stations for bikes, scooters, cell phones | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | wheelchairs, and medical devices; | our analysis. |
| 94 | II.2 Transportation | - bus rapid transit (dedicated lanes and signal priority) for Rutgers' fleet of electric | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | buseswith free or subsidized travel for community members | our analysis. |
| 95 | II.2 Transportation | I was just a commuter this past year, it was pretty terrible; there could be improvements to | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | the way parking restrictions are communicated (a map or something rather than a series of | our analysis. |
| | | disconnected lists); also it would be good to reconsider placement of parking lots, maybe | |
| | | they could be on the outskirts of spaces with good bus/shuttle service so that so many | |
| | | people aren't trying to drive down the same small roads to one congested area [I parked | |
| | | on cook/douglas, river road is a poorly sized road for its current use] | |
| 96 | II.3 Food Systems | Grammar: "serve" to "served" | Edit made |
| | | | |

| 97 | II.3 Food Systems | "Gourmet Dining's parent company, Compus Group, lists healthy, environmental, and sustainable practices"; what does this mean? Does not seem like a complete thought? | We believe that the Compass group and its subsidiary, Gourmet Dining, which serves Camden, Newark and Althlectics, has food service practices that embrace good environmental and sustainable practices. These practices needs to be confirmed to demonstrate that they have already taken action to lower their GHGs. |
|-----|--|--|--|
| | | | We have modified the text to read: "Gourmet Dining's parent company, Compass Group, lists healthy, environmental and sustainable practices on its website. The Working Group needs to better understand these practices and work with Gourmet Dining Operations to further the goal of moving their operations at Rutgers to carbon neutrality." |
| 98 | II.3 Food Systems | longterm inpact is currently longterm'; 2nd longterm should be unknown? | This should read "longterm impact is currently unknown." |
| 99 | II.3 Food Systems | Rutgers Gardens Cook's Market; awkward, better stated later as 'Cook's Market at Rutgers Gardens' | agreed. "Cook's Market at Rutgers Gardens" |
| 100 | II.3 Food Systems | follow[ing] food catagories' | Edit made |
| 101 | II.3 Food Systems | Grammar: "health" to "healthy" | Edit made |
| 102 | II.3 Food Systems | Are there any more ways to reduce packaging waste on the consumer side? For example, take out sometimes uses styrofoam pakaging. Is it possible to switch to a kind of plastic that can be recycled? Is it possible to work with caterers to reduce the amount of plastic waste from their services? | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| 103 | II.3 Food Systems | What should we collect for outlying stations?' < what does this mean? | Outlying stations refers to the NJAES agricultural field stations beyond the main campus. e.g. Snyder Farms. Rephrased. |
| 104 | II.3 Food Systems | The' should be 'This' | Edit made |
| 105 | II.3 Food Systems | six main area[s] | Edit made |
| 106 | II.3 Food Systems | Awesome idea! Also, overall, dining sounds like it is already very climate forward, which is also great. | Thank you. |
| 107 | II.3 Food Systems | []cooked or stored for future waste; 'waste' should be 'use' | Edit made |
| | II.4 Supply Chain and Waste Management | The sentence beginning "economical it was" was oddly worded and confusing at first. | Added |
| | II.4 Supply Chain and Waste Management | (If you don't already) When selecting janitorial products to use, you could run a pilot program with the janitorial staff to test out different green products to see which products work the best and are preferred by staff. This could also be included as an engagement plan. | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |
| 110 | II.4 Supply Chain and Waste Management | During contract negotiation, you could include provisions for sustainability to solidify the purchasing commitment to sustainability. Provisions could include providing sustainable products as mentioned here and phasing in future sustainable products as they are developed. | Thank you for the suggestion. We will be looking to improve sustainable purchasing requirements in future contracts. |

| 444 | lu.e | | In |
|-----|------------------------|--|---|
| 111 | II.5 Land Use and | 1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Biomass sequestration on University lands is envisioned as only one component of a musc |
| | Offsets | might be then defining that land for indefinite future use for other needs. It would be | broader strategy. |
| | | useful to make a carbon savings comparison for that land use as a solar array or with | |
| | | geothermal. The biomass sequestration is slow and may not really get us to our desired | |
| | | goal of zero. | |
| 112 | II.5 Land Use and | purchasing off-site carbon offsets is not likely to be a good longterm strategy because there | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2. |
| | Offsets | will be many demands for carbon offsets which will make them relatively expensive. We'll | |
| | | save money if we can generate more zero carbon energy and then even sell ours for a | |
| | | profit. We have to DO stuff, not just buy our way out. I also don't like this statement since it | |
| | | looks like you expect departments to even pay. This is something systemic and should be | |
| | | handled by central admin. | |
| 113 | II.5 Land Use and | overlap[s] | Edit made |
| | Offsets | | |
| 114 | II.5 Land Use and | a number of rows and entries in this table are erroneous Either not labelled, or with "X" | Table has been fixed |
| | Offsets | matched to an empty row | |
| 115 | II.5 Land Use and | studying the carbon sequestration is fine, but should be compared with other uses for the | Biomass sequestration on University lands is envisioned as only one component of a musc |
| | Offsets | land, such as solar power, etc. My instinct is that when you consider the many uses you | broader strategy. Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |
| | | might want for a tract of land, the biomass sequestration ability won't be high enough to | |
| | | move the needle much. | |
| 116 | II.5 Land Use and | utilizing low carbon concrete should be elevated to it's own entry. This is an area where | Will be taken into consideration in preparing Phase 2 |
| | Offsets | there is patented RUTGERS inventions and when we use them we popularize them to be | |
| | | used nationally (saving carbon) and also earning university revenue through patent | |
| | | licensing. | |
| 118 | II.6 Climate | This list would be more readable if it was spaced out in bullet format. | Edit made |
| | Preparedness | | |
| 119 | II.6 Climate | If it is not possible to collect social data in person, could the working group try a digital or | This a good suggestion - our data collection will be "remote" this summer due to COVID, |
| | Preparedness | phone call based survey in addition to using current knowledge? | including surveys and interviews. |
| 120 | II.6 Climate | You might consider including students who return home from school to emotionally or | Thanks for this suggestion. We have added this point to the document. We will consider a |
| | Preparedness | physically abusive situations as a group that would be hard hit by evacuation/stay at home | wide range of vulnerabilities in our examination of student groups. |
| | | orders. | |
| 121 | II.6 Climate | The climate preparedness report is missing information for most sections in its draft plan, | Thank you for this suggestion. We are hoping to have support of several graduate students |
| | Preparedness | which is understandable given that one of the co-chairs had to step down and that other | for the work this summer. |
| | | members may be similarly tied up during covid response. Is there any way to get them | |
| | | some more help so that they can develop their work plan and meet the next report | |
| | | deadline in September? | |
| 122 | II.7 Climate-Positive, | student-led/faculty[-]advised | Edit made |
| | Equitable Economic | | |
| | Development | | |
| | | l | 1 |

| Equitable Economic | I mentioned it in earlier comments, but it seemed especially relevant here- you could work with NJ EDA as they develop their green bank. I'm not sure what kind of collaboration would work well, but it might be worth a discussion. | Thank you. This is a great suggestion. We will review the RGGI Strategic Funding Plan and the opportunity for the Green Bank to serve as a resource. |
|---|--|---|
| II.7 Climate-Positive, Equitable Economic Development | Grammar: "to be" to "for" | Edit not needed |
| Equitable Economic Development | Does Rutgers Plan refer to the Rutgers Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan or to the Rutgers Strategic Plan? I am assuming it refers to the climate plan. Also, another working group referred to the climate plan as the Rutgers Climate Plan and used the acronym RCP. It would be helpful to develop consistent terminology/abbreviations to reference the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan | Refers to Rutgers Climate Action Plan |
| Equitable Economic Development | The New Brunswick & Newark Offices of Economic Development could take on activities and objectives to strengthen the local economy such as those listed under Camden's including Strengthening the relationships between local industries and academia; Promoting the current and potential workforce in the region; Participating in strategic neighborhood revitalization efforts in the City; Seeking to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of the City of Camden. | Thank you. Yes, the Rutgers Offices of Economic Development can serve an important role in their local communities. Rutgers leads a number of programs in Newark, including connecting anchor institutions with local suppliers, offering entrepreneurship and small business training for minority entrepreneurs, and more. |
| Equitable Economic Development | Although this comment refers to the WG7 section, it applies to all the other WG content areas: Steps to achieve objectives detailed in the following statement should be clearly and prominently developed in ALL the other sections/sectors: Rutgers' "activities will thus 'do no harm' to the surrounding communities and, wherever possible, will support opportunities for local businesses, employment, workforce development, public transportation, facilities, the arts, civic life and many other factors that contribute to a vibrant local economy and resilient community." | Thank you, this is a great comment. In WG1, Rachael Shwom will be researching PPAs over the summer and is well connected with Josh Kohut and the RU Cool and the state wind institute. The report will assess the costs and benefits to the timeline for entering a PPA. Also, Rutgers food systems (WG#3) is directly connected to the local economy and local communities, and vice versa. For example, 40% of Rutgers Dining food purchases come from local businesses. Further, part of the WG7 task is to provide guidance to the other WG's on how to incorporate climate positive equitable economic development considerations in their assessments of potential climate solutions. We will keep this in mind in our future analysis. |
| Equitable Economic Development | Again, although this comment is listed under WG7 its force crosscuts all the sectors/sections/WGs of the plan. In order to forestall negative impacts and to seek out positive opportunities, there needs to be a consistent, institutionalized approach to tracking, evaluating and responding to the economic and social impacts on surrounding communities (differentiated, emphasis on vulnerable of RU in its actions in all its capacities: as developer and landlord, as employer, as land manager, and as buyer (procurement). The evaluation must involve structured & supported community engageme and accountability. | Thank you, this is a great comment. WG3 already has significant purchasing power and there is institutionalized tracking through procurement for Rutgers Dining. It is unclear to WG3 how food purchases, that happen every day, become open to "structured & supported community engagement and accountability" beyond what is currently done. Contractual language already makes it clear that if food is produced in New Jersey it will be purchased in New Jersey. As above, part of the WG7 task is to provide guidance to the other WG's on how to incorporate climate positive equitable economic development considerations in their assessments of potential climate solutions. We will keep this in mind in our future analysis. |

| 129 | A.IV. Utilities | Please see previous comments re: NJ EDA's Green Bank which is under development. Also, | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
|-----|------------------------|--|--|
| | | · | our analysis. We agree that an integrate approach to assessing social impact of actions is |
| | | projects since many projects in this report benefit the surrounding communities in our state | a significant factor of how we configure our climate action. These funds could assist in |
| | | as well as the university. Similarly, there is a possibility for NJ to recieve funding through | creating pilot projects for implementation that can be used in Rutgers food systems. |
| | | the Transportation Climate Initiative in the future, which could also provide some funding. | Teaching and research opportunities could be developed. The NJ EDA Green Bank may |
| | | | potentially provide a much needed source of funding to support project implementation. |
| | | | We will read through the RGGI Strategic Funding Plan and explore these potential funding |
| | | | opportunities in further detail. |
| | A.VI. Supply Chain | | Agreed. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our |
| | Supporting | | analysis. When "soon" is a great unknown. Exploring composting, aerobic and anaerobic |
| | Documentation | | digestions are high priority areas for diversion of such waste. WG3 will work with WG4 on |
| | | | this topic. |
| | A.VI. Supply Chain | | Thank you for the suggestion. We will explore this option. |
| | Supporting | partner withh Project Move Out in the Office of Off-Campus Living and Community | |
| | Documentation | Partnerships to collect used furniture from off campus residents when they leave. Instead of | |
| | | landfilling, the used furniture could be sold inexpensively or donated for free in a thrift | |
| | | shop that is accessible to incoming students as well as residents of New Brunswick(I think | |
| | | the accessibility to NB residents is important, because on the night of project move out | |
| | | some families take furniture that hasn't been collected for the trash yet, so any furniture | |
| | | collected should still be available to the community in some way at little to no cost, could | |
| | | partner with a local non-profit (NBT or PRAB for example) or with a nonprofit with this kind | |
| | | of experience(such as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore)) | |
| 132 | A.VIII. Rutgers Assets | • | Yes, this is a great addition. A bullet for student clubs (including a short list of clubs |
| | | | mentioned in this comment) and Rutgers alumni was added to the Appendix. |
| | | researchers are very involved with the entities listed, but students and alumni aren't always | |
| | | included in those. While they don't have as much experience, when students feel | |
| | | empowered to engage and make a difference, many of them are quick to learn, | |
| | | passionate, inexhaustable, and determined. They also bring a fresh perspective with new | |
| | | ideas. I appreciate that several working groups listed student engagement and that | |
| | | students are included in the task force. Students and their organizations should also be | |
| | | considered an asset. Some student organizations to consider could be student | |
| | | governments, Students for Environmental Awareness, Compost Club, RU Gen UN, Engineer | |
| | | Without Borders, the Sustainability Coalition, RU Thrifty, and more. Our Rutgers | |
| | | alumni are everywhere, and could be involved in work that could benefit Rutgers' climate | |
| | | efforts. They could be an asset if alumni engagment becomes part of the task force's | |
| | | engagement strategy. | |

| | - | Climate Initiative. The paragraph before is really a bullet subheading of EOAS. REI is supported through 5 different schools of interdisciplinary effort. | Edit made |
|-----|---------|---|--|
| 134 | General | The Task Force should establish a "weighting system" when giving financial and temporal priority to one emissions reduction decision vs another. The job of the task force is to make a plan for Rutgers to be carbon neutral, but there's many ways to accomplish this, and could be stretched with increasing utilization of offsets, rather than systemic change. This weighting system should use a function of both amount of emissions reductions and amount of student support/visibility. These values should then be used to give temporal and financial priority of one decision over another. Both actual emissions reductions and how much the decision will contribute to a sustainable culture at Rutgers matter. The amount of weight assigned to these should be predetermined, so when it comes to making decisions, it is as objective and informed as possible. An example of this being useful could be if deciding between a more emissions reducing choice to purchase more efficient water heating systems vs a less emission reducing investment into food recovery technolog that would give students a large amount of pride in Rutgers, and possibly do more for students to be more engaged in sustainability at Rutgers. This isn't an easy decision on the face of it, which is why this decision would be necessary. | necessary, it will be developed and applied for this report. |
| 135 | General | A huge emphasis needs to be placed on orientation. Yes, considering we may not be coming back in the Fall in person, the point still stands. I don't know what kind of pull the Task Force has in making decisions for Rutgers now, but any weight it has should be used to get this done. This would include 1. any sustainable practices the Rutgers does that REQUIRES student cooperation and understanding (ex: recycling) and 2. any sustainability practices done at Rutgers that students don't directly need to know (ex: where our food waste goes. Both of these build a culture of sustainability on campus, and gives students a better ability to understand where Rutgers may excel, and where it may lack. | Thank you. Agreed. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. Rutgers Dining always works closely with incoming students and has reduced the environmental impact of student dining each year. |
| 136 | General | If there is anything the task force needs from students, they should ask because we are here to help and are committed to this cause. | Thank you for your offer. We are committed to engaging the student body and are in the process of establishing a Student Advisory Board to organize this effort. |
| 137 | General | Both the supply chain management and climate-positive economic development sections mention carbon pricing and and implementing a "life cycle cost". I think it is crucial to incorporate the economic impact of our purchasing and construction behaviors. Without factoring in the carbon cost, we may continue to rationalize environmentally un-sound behaviors due to a long payback period. However, this will cause us to fall behind other major universities and institutions in the long run, and put our financial standings and reputation at risk. | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |

| 138 | General | Referring to the "visibility gap" between the solutions the student body has expressed interest in and the solutions that would be most effective at reducing emissions is useless if not practically addressed. Though most sections talk about education and engaging students, there is action that can be taken now to ensure that we all of us are engaged throughout this process. In the town halls summary it is stated that "the electrification of buses was heavily promoted by participants, but would have very little impact on emissions if implemented." Yet, the electrification of buses is mentioned in multiple sections as a real option in this process. The student body does not want band-aid solutions to appease the environmental eye-sores on campus. We want real solutions that significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. | |
|-----|---------|---|---|
| 139 | General | Additionally, several sectors, particularly Energy and Buildings and Transportation, seemed to lack implementable methods of establishing baselines to improve upon as well as intermediate goals that can be achieved during baseline data collection. As we are currently living in the climate crisis, it is imperative that our greenhouse gas emissions are immediately reduced in any possible way. One such step is to ethically divest from the fossil fuel industry, whose current behavior directly undermines the Task Force's goals. If we follow the University of California's precedent, we will definitively demonstrate that Rutgers is committed to sustainable climate action. | with Phase 2. |
| 139 | General | to lack implementable methods of establishing baselines to improve upon as well as | |
| 140 | General | Finally, by more actively engaging students, faculty, and the community in the discussion | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |

| 141 G | General | I feel many sections were lacking an implementable plan to establish a baseline from which we can proceed. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. Our goal is first to analyze where our greatest GHGs come from and from there implementation can follow. WGs will collect baseline data in accordance to what is most appropriate for their topic area. For example, WG2 will use survey and administrative records. Because the WG7 charge is more conceptual, their version of the baseline will be different. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. The climate action plan will identify key steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Divestment is an overarching question. |
|-------|---------|---|--|
| 142 G | General | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | As outlined in this report, this is the second of five reports the Task Force will issue. Much work indeed remains to be done. |
| 143 0 | General | If we CAN partner with the city of New Brunswick at large, that would be all the better. Hopefully this pandemic will show the world that we can't ignore important and imminent things like the climate crisis, and Rutgers is able to emerge as a leader in the field by taking ACTION! | Thank you. We appreciate your positive outlook. The work of this Task Force is an important step towards Rutgers emerging as a leader in this space. |
| 144 6 | General | environmental science topics. Specifically with Extension and some of Broader Impacts on the NSF funded projects. | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. Part of the WG charge for Phase 2 is to speak with local communities about their climate resilience and/or mitigation goals and programs, as well as their social equity strategies. Our definition of equity (in the context of climate positive equitable economic development) emphasizes the importance of participation and ensuring that different socia groups are involved in decision-making processes. |
| 145 G | General | The climate task force interim report looks good and I think it outlines some key aspects | This is an interim report to Presidents Barchi and Holloway. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. |

| 146 | General | Much of the document outlines the research that will go into determining Rutger's carbon footprint as well as potential solutions to these outputs. The document however does not go into how it will implement these strategies and the timeline at which they will be accomplished. What commitments will Rutgers take today to reduce it's footprint? How do we ensure that these solutions actually lead to reduced emissions? Many of the suggested solutions do not get at systemic issues facing Rutgers' goal for carbon neutrality. | This is an interim report to Presidents Barchi and Holloway. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. |
|-----|---------|---|--|
| 147 | General | The same should be done in terms of acting as a lobbying body for further legislation on climate policy. There needs to be a working group, potentially aligned with the Eagleton Institute of Politics, specifically designed for assessing and recommending climate policy to the governor's office. | Thank you for your comment. Rutgers is active in providing climate policy advice to national, state, and local leadership. The state recently established the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers to further this, as discussed in I.3. The Task Force will explore whether a separate working group is needed or if synthesizing information regarding considerations for state policy that may be identified throughout the Task Force's deliberations can be achieved through the Task Force's current operational structure |
| 148 | General | Today is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day in April 1970 and so a report such as the Interim Report of the President's Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience is laudable and timely. It seems however that we have become distracted from the very issues that prompted the celebration of Earth Day in the first place: the use of toxic substances in manufacturing and the release of toxic substances by industry into the environment, the unregulated and pervasive use of pesticides, smog, DDT, lead from automobile exhaust, acid rain, the Santa Barbara oil spill, the burning surface of Lake Erie, the Minamata Bay disaster, etc., etc. The current hyper-focus on carbon is a gift to polluters because it limits the discussion of pollution generally to a discussion solely of carbon and climate change. The Interim Report of the President's Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience would be improved by the addition of a preface or an introduction stating that we must not forget that the issue of carbon pollution, though urgent, is not the only determinant of sustainability. If there were no carbon driven climate change yet we continued to pollute the Earth with reckless disregard for our own health and the wellbeing of future generations, we would still have created an environmental disaster of global proportions resulting in unnecessary suffering and hardship for humanity and all beings inhabiting this Earth. | |
| 149 | General | As a matter process, the Task Force should consult explicitly with the on-campus labor union, bodies which, together, represented 20,000 Rutgers workers. Particularly in Facilities, these members of staff have valuable knowledge of ways of reducing energy consumption. | Thank you for your suggestion. We will take it under consideration as we move forward with Phase 2. |

| | General General - Office of Sustainabiity | We would like the task force to explore any positive or negative employment impacts, particularly for workers in facilities and blue collar occupations related Rutgers energy systems. We would encourage the university to create a "just transition" in the form of a training and jobs program that would: a) in the event of job growth, make reasonable efforts to train and hire members from historically disadvantaged communities in New Brunswick and other campus towns, or b) in the event of job loss, make reasonable efforts to retrain and reemploy displaced workers elsewhere within the University. We need an Office of Sustainability here at Rutgers in order to make climate resiliency a long term priority for the university in the years to come. Having a group of dedicated individuals that have the opportunity to devote their time and are fully committed to this | Thank you. These are excellent suggestions. Green jobs training and other potential climate and economic development solutions will be explored further during Phase 2 of ou work. The Task Force will be making recommendations as to oversight and implementation in its final report. An Office of Sustainability would certainly be a potential candidate for overseeing the Climate Action Plan implementation, as is the case at many of our peer |
|-----|--|---|--|
| | | cause will allow for significant progress to be made going forward, possibly over a smaller timeframe. | institutions. |
| 152 | General - Office of Sustainabiity | While the initiatives outlined in the Interim Climate Action Plan will help Rutgers lower its carbon footprint, I believe that the university will not be able to implement them without a formal Office of Sustainability with full-time, waged staff dedicated to researching, planning, and executing their plans. As extensive amounts of time and effort are required to compile the data needed to effectively compose and execute strategies such as improving infrastructure and transportation, the responsibility of drafting a Final Climate Action Plan should not fall entirely on volunteer faculty and students who already juggle other teaching, research, and learning obligations. | The Task Force will be making recommendations as to oversight and implementation in its final report. An Office of Sustainability would certainly be a potential candidate for overseeing the Climate Action Plan implementation, as is the case at many of our peer institutions. |
| 153 | General - Office of Sustainabiity | While I acknowledge the effort that had to be put into this plan to create it so quickly, many sections were lacking an implementable plan to establish a baseline from which we can proceed. It is clear that the strain placed on faculty, particularly those with extra responsibilities during this pandemic, prevented a comprehensive and detailed plan. This is why we need an Office of Sustainability - if Rutgers is going to make climate resiliency a priority we need a permanently dedicated staff that can devote their time to planning | The Task Force will be making recommendations as to oversight and implementation in its final report. An Office of Sustainability would certainly be a potential candidate for overseeing the Climate Action Plan implementation, as is the case at many of our peer institutions. |
| 154 | General - Office of Sustainabiity | Also, there should be more urgency in establishing an office of sustainability. | The Task Force will be making recommendations as to oversight and implementation in its final report. An Office of Sustainability would certainly be a potential candidate for overseeing the Climate Action Plan implementation, as is the case at many of our peer institutions. |

| 155 General - Office of | A university-wide Office of Sustainability (or an existing entity at Rutgers that is expanded to | The Task Force will be making recommendations as to oversight and implementation in its |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Sustainabiity | meet this need across all chancellor units) would be essential to the success of the Carbon | final report. An Office of Sustainability would certainly be a potential candidate for |
| | , | overseeing the Climate Action Plan implementation, as is the case at many of our peer institutions. |
| | Such an office dedicated to this cause would provide accountability to ensure that the goals | |
| | of the plan are met. It would also be able to track progress and release reports on that | |
| | progress. A lack of communication across the many units of Rutgers is a common struggle | |
| | for all departments. For climate action and sustainability, the office would facilitate | |
| | engagement and communication within Rutgers as well as between Rutgers and outside | |
| | stakeholders. | |
| | I could write pages on the benefits that an Office of Sustainability (or equivalent) could | |
| | provide now and into the long term, but I will keep this shorter. Last year, our proposal for | |
| | such an office gained the support of over 60 Rutgers organizations. In May, Chancellor | |
| | Malloy promised to begin working on a plan to help create one. | |
| | This broad support makes now the perfect time to institutionalize the Climate Task Force's | |
| | mission and vision for Rutgers. While a task force is by definition temporary, an office could | |
| | last well into the future and ensure the success of the comprehensive and ambitious action | |
| | plan that this task force is working so hard to create. | |
| | When your goals are finally met, the Office of Sustainability would be there to promote | |
| | your success and to develop the next action plan to set the bar even higher, ensuring that | |
| | Rutgers is a leader in climate and sustainability for years to come. | |
| 156 General - Divestmer | it I am thrilled to see the Interim Report out! Reading through it, the report sounds pretty | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action |
| | | fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are |
| | and become one of the most sustainable college campuses in the country, if we put in the | committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available |
| | effort. I think it would be really important for the university to divest from fossil fuels, since | for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request |
| | that currently runs counter to the plan's goals of cutting fossil fuel usage. | has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |

| 157 | | Investing in fossil fuels directly cuts against the task force's purported goals. It is impossible to achieve a resilient climate without ethical divestment, and to include only a small section on divestment citing a suggestion to submit a divestment request is to ignore the past futility of that action and the magnitude of what is at stake. Your own report acknowledges precedent from the University of California in concluding that "investing in fossil fuels is not consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities." Though this is not "within the main scope of the Task Force's responsibilities," Rutgers has no office of sustainability and no administrative body other than the task force to ensure that we are making climate-positive future investments. | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |
|-----|----------------------|--|---|
| 158 | General - Divestment | The text box on p. 27 advises that advocates for fossil fuel divestment should use the process established in 2015 by the Joint Committee on Investments. In fact, RU Fossil Free submitted its request through that channel in 2015, and the Central Jersey Coalition for Climate Justice did the same in 2019 (shortly after the climate strike which persuaded the Administration to create this task force). The report should not suggest that students and faculty repeat a step they have already taken twice. The "process," moreover, requires proponents of divestment to demonstrate a "consensus of the University community" (as the report notes). The report might mention, therefore, the climate strike and statements at the town halls suggest an emerging consensus for fossil fuel divestment. One could say all that while still maintaining that President Barchi charged the task force to examine emissions from operations only. | committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |
| 159 | | At the same time, the report expands those bounds insightfully through "Scope 4," the section on climate-positive, equitable economic development. Under that rubric, the "do no harm" principle on p. 89 implicates the University's shares in fossil fuel corporations. Those investment decisions undercut the conditions for human and other life on Earth. Locally, the University owns stock in Enbridge, the company that operates large natural gas pipelines under New Brunswick and Newark. In other words, the portfolio of the University is exacerbating environmental risk and injustice in communities near and far – causing harm, in short | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |
| 160 | | Additionally, the lack of teeth in this document can be seen in its strategy for divestment in fossil fuels. There needs to be a subgroup dedicated to working with the JCOI to identify problematic assets, recommend more sustainable ones, and report progress to the Rutgers community. | Thank you for your comment. We recognize that the dialogue about Rutgers climate action fostered by the Task Force will naturally include feedback about divestment, and we are committed to including this feedback within the documentary record so that it is available for the appropriate decision-making bodies. It is our understanding that an official request has been received by the JCOI and is under conisderation. |

| 161 | Timeline | For the final climate action plan, there should be a preset goal of a date for carbon neutrality. That goal should be 2030. create timelines based on a deadline (at least a goal of one) rather than seeing what deadline makes the most "sense" | The task force was charged by the President to develop an actionable, evidence-based plan. In developing such a plan, it is not possible to set a timeframe without first assessing the costs, barriers, and benefits of different options. We note that many schools that set the target before doing analyses have ended up relying heavily on offsets to meet their target. The final Task Force report will identify an timeframe from neutrality that is both ambitious and achieveable. |
|-----|----------|--|---|
| 162 | Timeline | The timeline to have a "final plan" by September doesn't make sense in reference to the timelines laid out by individual working groups. Specifically in the Transportation and Energy and Buildings working groups, they detail months of data collection that wouldn't be done by September, and without which, supposedly they wouldn't be able to move forward in decision making without. How could this result even an early stage plan by that deadline? Either change the timeline to get the plan out, or make sure individual checkpoints can be done before the deadline. | We are aware of this limitation and will take this into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. We have aggregate baseline information for energy and buildings. We are hiring a consultant to further detail greenhouse gas emissions. |
| 163 | Timeline | The amount of research that the working groups cited (particularly Energy and Buildings and Transportation) would take much longer than the September deadline for a final climate action plan. Furthermore, not all working groups had "quick wins" to accomplish while baseline data is being collected. We do not have the time to wait for everything to be in place before we move forward. The climate crisis is happening right now, and we need to take whatever small interim steps we can to reduce emissions | Thank you. We are aware of this limitation. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. Rutgers Dining has been implementing changes for 30 years and will continue to make changes to reduce its impact on the environment. WG5 has idenitied 2 quick wins for implementation over the summer. |
| 164 | Timeline | I feel that more information is going to be needed about what is going to be on the September Plan because at the moment it seems that much of what has been laid out by the working forums in terms of the research timeline actually does not seem to line up with the expected release date. Either a manipulation of the release date or a reevaluation of the research that will be done before this date needs to be considered. | Thank you for your suggestion. It is a continous process and we agree that some actions can be prioritized while more detailed data gathering is ongoing. Targets and timelines will be developed in subsequent reports, as outlined in I.7. An initial baseline analysis is targeted for this summer with more in depth analysis taking place after September 2020. |
| 165 | Timeline | I think the greatest flaw in this Interim Report is the lack of a set deadline to accomplish these goals by. Without a hard deadline, this effort could just be dragged out until forgotten about and that is not what we need. Not only does a deadline of say, 2030, give a set goal, but it will encourage changes to be made sooner rather than later. | The task force was charged by the President to develop an actionable, evidence-based plan. In developing such a plan, it is not possible to set a timeframe without first assessing the costs, barriers, and benefits of different options. We note that many schools that set the target before doing analyses have ended up relying heavily on offsets to meet their target. The final Task Force report will identify an timeframe from neutrality that is both ambitious and achieveable. |
| 166 | Timeline | As was mentioned in the call to action video, a timetable for Rutgers to achieve carbon neutrality is imperative. We should shoot to pave the way for the rest of the country and aim for 2030. | The task force was charged by the President to develop an actionable, evidence-based plan. In developing such a plan, it is not possible to set a timeframe without first assessing the costs, barriers, and benefits of different options. We note that many schools that set the target before doing analyses have ended up relying heavily on offsets to meet their target. The final Task Force report will identify an timeframe from neutrality that is both ambitious and achieveable. |

| 167 | WG1 | renewable energy is critical importance to transition to a carbon neutral university. | It is a continous process and we agree that some actions can be prioritized while more |
|-----|-----------|---|---|
| | | However, I think the placement of solar panels should be COMPLETELY utilized on roof tops | detailed data gathering is ongoing. |
| | | and over parking lots BEFORE any large solar farms are built. Although maybe sometimes | |
| | | necessary, solar farms do cover land, removing/altering habitat and green space, so they | |
| | | should be considered secondarily. | |
| 168 | WG1 | I noticed that heating and cooling of buildings released the most carbon, so a possible | It is part of the continuous monitoring. Unfortunately the issue at Hickman Hall was due to |
| | | solution could be adjusting the temperature of buildings according to the temperature | a programming issue with the new control system. The control valve was erroneously |
| | | outside. Last semester, it was slightly cold outside, but my dorm was unbelievably hot to | programmed to fix the control valve to 50% open if the fan "failed". Once we were made |
| | | the point where I had to open a window, which wastes carbon because of unnecessary | aware of the problem, we immediately contacted the Contractor to correct the issue. The |
| | | heating. In another instance, the heat in Hickman was turned up so high that my class | occupants at Hickman can turn off the fans or change the temperaure setpoint. If the |
| | | decided to go outside because it was unbearable. No one wanted to even go in the | Dorms are too warm, please call Maintenance for Service. Unfortunately some of the HVAC |
| | | building, so all the carbon used to heat it, went to waste, when the heat could have been | systems in the older Dorms have limited capabilities (due for upgrade). Identifying systems |
| | | turned off. People in the buildings should be given the option to turn off their heat or ac | where occupants can provide quick feedback information to buildings and operations will |
| | | and instead use the temperature outside to their advantage. | be evaluated for future solutions. |
| 169 | WG1 & WG2 | This is a comment for the interim report. I wanted to urge the Rutgers Task Force to consider | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | the specific needs of RBHS and the medical school. For example, there is a limited amount | our analysis. |
| | | of EV charging across Rutger's campuses, but none is available to staff and students of the | |
| | | medical school. The choice is to risk getting a ticket and charging, or not charging at all! | |
| | | This is frustrating to members of the medical school who have made a choice to invest in | |
| | | an EV and don't feel supported by the infrastructure on campus. Things like this may fall | |
| | | through the cracks if voices from RHBS aren't included in any surveys, town halls, or other | |
| | | outreach in the community | |
| 170 | WG2 | I also think Rutgers should look into providing free NJ transit train passes to all commuters | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | this is something other universities have done as an action to become carbon neutral. This | our analysis. |
| | | is something that many universities have, and is essential in cultivating the climate | |
| | | conscious culture at Rutgers. | |
| 171 | WG2 | In addition to giving times and directions/paths for biking (which is talked about in the | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | plan) there should be MORE bike rentals on campus. When I tried to rent a bike halfway | our analysis. |
| | | through a semester, there were none left! so you increase advertising for using bikes, the | |
| | | bike rental programs capacity and convenience needs to reflect that. | |
| 172 | WG2 | Regarding transportation, we recommend many convenient EV charging stations, metered | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | so that users pay for the electricity. For those commuters who do not or cannot have | our analysis. |
| | | charging stations at home, this will be an incentive for them to convert to EVs. | |
| 173 | WG2 | We also recommend that Rutgers restructure parking rates in order to encourage occasional | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | | – rather than regular – commuting by car. A per-use charge would provide the right | our analysis. |
| | | incentive. | |

| 174 | WG2 | , i | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
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| 175 | WG2 | Regarding off campus travel, the business office allow faculty and staff to be reimbursed | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| 176 | WG2 | I own a Tesla Model 3, which I purchased in January, 2019. I charge it at home, as I live in | |
| 177 | WG2 | Currently, rules for travel require the cheapest fare, independent of the carbon emissions. These should change to take into consideration the environmental impacts as well as the direct payments required. | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| 178 | WG2 | Sometimes it is necessary to travel. In addition to being able to present my latest work and | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. |
| 179 | WG2 | I already use telecons in my work, and have been doing it for years before the coronavirus, including meeting each week with my research group, so we do not all have to travel to Rutgers, just to talk. We easily share screens to work together. And I do that with national and international colleagues regularly on several different projects. If people are not already doing this, I would encourage you to encourage them to do it. | We intend to study these issues. |
| 180 | WG2 | I live at the Jersey Shore, and drive alone to work. Public transportation is not an option | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis" |

| 181 WG2 | For example, it suggests promoting the use of electric vehicles through free parking permit | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
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| | however it doesn't address why so many students and staff feel the need to drive to campus | our analysis" |
| | and conceive of a much more expanded bike path system and local public transportation | |
| | system (besides highly overcrowded buses). | |
| 182 WG3 | Page 60, Table II.3.2. Food production operations affiliated with Rutgers University | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of our analysis. (Angie: WG3 had a long discussion about this and we are wondering if this |
| | This could include the dozens of Rutgers affiliated food production sites supported by | comment extends Rutgers' boundaries too far. Most community gardens will not be able t |
| | Extension in the communities. It would be a good time to have a comprehensive table with | report data. We will find out what data might be available. Technically, this is NOT Rutgers |
| | this info. RU is doing a lot with community gardens. | food production but rather Rutgers providing technical support to those who produce food |
| 183 WG3 | The Harvest Café, which brands itself as being very green, has a pizza oven that | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | continuously burns natural gas to make flame that can be seen from outside. This is | our analysis. (angie: Joe is looking into this. Turning it on or off maybe an option but not |
| | extremely wasteful of natural gas and produces unnecessary carbon dioxide emissions. An | replacement at this time because of building design something RU dining had no input |
| | easy win for you would be to replace it, and any other such devices on campus, with electric | on.). |
| | ovens with doors that close. This will save money and emissions immediately, and then, as | |
| | we shift to greener electricity, allow us to further reduce emissions. | |
| 184 WG3 | Page, 64 #4- Rutgers Cooperative Extension has the resources and capacity to take lead on | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
| | this. The Healthy Dining team is mentioned but not sure they have the same capacity as | our analysis. We value NJAES and the role it can also play. |
| | Extension who already has designed resources in the listed topics. "Healthy eating should | |
| | also be emphasized along with cooking skills, shopping skills, menu planning, portion | |
| | sizes and environmental impact of foods" | |
| 185 WG3 | Has the university considered instituting any plant-based initiatives within Rutgers Dining | Thank you. Rutgers Dining currently promotes Meatless Monday by providing more plant- |
| | (e.g. Meatless Monday)? I don't think meat should be eliminated, but I recognize that meat | based dining options and actively promotes students to choose meatless options. Rutgers |
| | products contribute significantly more to greenhouse gas emissions than plant-based foods | Dining embraces Menus of Change principles which promotes more sustainable dining. |
| | I think an emphasis on fruits, vegetables, and grains would not only save costs and reduce | |
| | Rutgers' GHG emissions, but would also go hand in hand with the Food Education | |
| | Campaign and any marketing on sustainability. | |
| 186 WG3 & WG4 | Something that could be done about that is implementing campus wide compost; if | Thank you. WG3 believes that composting may not be the best solution for food waste as |
| | students see compost bins next to every trash can, and have compost bins in their residence | other options exist. WG3 and WG4 will explore all options, including composting, for |
| | halls, it would show them that Rutgers is taking climate change seriously. | handling food waste to reduce our impact. Additionally, handing food packaging and food |
| | | waste together will be explored. |
| 187 WG3 & WG4 | I also think Rutgers needs to take a serious look at its food system and overall food waste. | Thank you. WG3 believes that composting may not be the best solution for food waste as |
| | With four dining halls, various individual dining establishments, and thousands of | other options exist. WG3 and WG4 will explore all options, including composting, for |
| | students, that amounts to a lot of food consumed and wasted. Rutgers should invest in a | handling food waste to reduce our impact. Additionally, handing food packaging and food |
| | campus-wide composting system, and a better recycling system with clear signage. Along | waste together will be explored. |
| | with all of the other Rutgers students, I want to see real solutions that will solve our | |
| | environmental problems on campus, and not just temporary solutions. | |

| 188 WG3 & WG4 | In terms of Food Systems, there is extensive mention of food waste issues + solutions, but | Thank you. We will take your feedback into account as we proceed with the next phase of |
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| 100 Wd3 & Wd4 | | our analysis. WG3 and WG4 will work in coordination. |
| | | our alialysis. WO3 alid WO4 will work in coordination. |
| | report, and Rutgers University as a whole, commit to single-use plastic reduction. I also | |
| | think that removing plastic utensils from dining halls/investing in washable utensils is a | |
| | good "easy win" to implement. | |
| 189 WG5 | Re: II.5. Land Use and Offsets; NJDEP Dept. of Community Forestry and it's unofficial non | These groups could serve as promising partners. |
| | profit, the NJ Tree Foundation, are well versed in civic engagement, particularly in under | |
| | served urban areas, where they employ local adults from difficult circumstances to plant | |
| | trees. The NJTF in particular is well positioned to scale up its efforts to lessen urban heat | |
| | islands. They are also partnering with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on training | |
| | initiatives.; In general, the report has lots of well thought out approaches. | |
| 190 WG6 | The first two paragraphs are clear and succinct. Do you think the term Stressors versus | Stresses and stressors are both used in the climate impacts literature. We can decide later |
| | Stresses is better? I am not directly in climate work so stresses may be a better way to | on which to use for the report as whole. |
| | describe things. | |
| 191 WG6 | In the 2nd paragraph when you mention multiple operations, I would suggest including | Added health and emergency response to report. |
| | health and emergency response (they may be all combined, but not sure). | |
| 192 WG6 | One last comment in section 8 is that we need a plan for storing emergency response | Added plan for storage of emergency supplies |
| | supplies and having a rotation system to use what might be needed on a regular basis. | |
| | For example, we should have food storage on campus for emergencies but it needs a | |
| | system for rotating out the supplies and used so we don't have stuff spoiled, etc. The same | |
| | goes for PPE (masks etc) a plan for rotation so we can keep a decent supply without losing | |
| | money. Somehow that can be said in a few words | |