

Overview of Community Actions Supporting Wellesley's Comprehensive Approach to Climate Change

April 30, 2021



ECON/ES 199 recommendations

The student body voted on and approved the following carbon-reducing actions as part of College Government's annual elections in March 2021.

- **Buses:** Reduce the number of College-owned buses from four to three; reduce the number of running buses to two (with a reservation system and transportation allowance).
- **Mini fridges:** Charge a \$25 conservation fee to offset the current cost of powering a mini fridge (with waivers for students with financial or medical need).
- **Red meat:** Gradually reduce (up to 50 percent) the amount of red meat offered in dining halls.

Sustainability Committee recommendations

The faculty voted on and approved the following carbon-reducing actions at Academic Council on April 21, 2021.

- **Plant-based catering policy:** Food-ordering practices will be modified to an opt-in “plant-based” catering default, where individuals still have an option to request meat-based items if needed.
- **Mini-fridges:** Community members should consider recycling their mini-fridges through the Office of Sustainability if they are underutilized.
- **Drinking fountains:** A Facilities-led energy efficiency project will reduce chilled water by disconnecting chillers at water fountains and bottle filling stations across campus.
- **New building temperature proposal:** Campus temperature settings will be updated. Heating setting will be lowered from 72 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit and cooling will be raised from 72 to 78 degrees.

Sustainability Committee recommendations (continued)

- **Faculty conference travel:** For all faculty on term appointment (including assistant professors to all NTT faculty) the current program would remain unchanged, allocating \$2,000/AY to conference travel. For tenured faculty, the program would change to \$3,000/2AY (permitting roll overs). In addition, all domestic flights would incur a \$20 carbon fee while international flights would be charged \$35.*
- **Parking:** There will be no faculty parking fee, but other options, such as visitor parking fees and incentivizing more sustainable modes of transportation, will be explored further.
- **Internal carbon pricing feebate program:** Additional research will be done on this project. This goes beyond the original charge to the Sustainability Committee, though we believe that when our community is ready, an appropriately designed internal carbon pricing program could lead to building sustainability into our community's DNA.

*During the meeting, the following amendment was passed to reorganize the faculty travel proposal from the suite of actions: “that the travel changes will accomplish the *same* reduction in carbon and the same reductions of cost, but that we have not yet decided what the specific policy will be.”

Faculty, staff, and student decarbonization project summary

Target area / Program	Stakeholders	CO2 (Metric Tons)/Year Saved	Cost Savings
Catering/dining	Faculty/Staff: Academic Council lunches Students: 50% red meat reduction	0.087* 192	Negligible \$74,000
Transportation	Faculty: Conference travel Students: Busing	135 70	\$92,400 \$116,838
Mini-fridges	Faculty/Staff: Facilitate recycling Students: Conservation fee	2 21	~\$500 \$30,000
Drinking fountains	Community-wide	26	\$8,397
New building temp. settings proposal	Community-wide	2,538	\$316,879
Total	(For context: 2010 emissions baseline is 32,600 MT CO2)	2,984	\$639,014



*higher if adopted for more events