

Climate Action Plan Townhall #2

Toolbox Series Video Transcript

[Auto-generated transcript. Edits may have been applied for clarity.]

Welcome, everybody. Thank you for joining us for today's toolbox talk.

My name is Alan Abbott. I'm an internal organizational development consultant with the learning and development team.

Kicking off today's talk on sustainability is Mr. Jarrett Smith.

Jarrett is the sustainability manager for the Anschutz Medical Campus.

He works across disciplines to facilitate sustainability, culture and operations on campus.

Central to his role is planning greenhouse gas reduction strategies and waste diversion efforts.

He has two children and likes to spend time in the great outdoors.

In addition to Jarret, we have speakers from Canon Design and architecture engineering firm and sustainability consulting practice.

CU Anschutz hired Canon Design to lead the development of the university's Climate Action Plan.

Canon Design, along with RNA Engineering and Stokes Sustainability Consulting,

just completed the development of the Energy Master plan for the Medical Campus, which they will touch on today.

Also joining us from Canon Design is Eric Cory Freed, architect and director of sustainability.

Eric is a nationally known thought leader and an inspirational voice in sustainable design.

Named one of the ten most influential Green Architects,

Eric brings a unique combination of practical experience, academic research and innovative thinking to the team. In 2024,

he was named the net-zero trailblazer for innovation. Eric will be supported by Deb Barberini, architect and Associate Sustainability leader,

who has been working closely with our CU Anschutz sustainability team to develop this strategic plan.

The goal of the plan is to set up the campus for long term success in achieving,

sorry, my laptop is dying. And achieving its sustainability and climate action goals.

Deb is a recognized sustainability leader,

named an Orange County Visionary by the Los Angeles Times, and a rising star by Metropolis Magazine in 2022.

Deb brings an unwavering commitment to making a positive, long term impact on people and our planet.

Also, from Canon Design, we have Matt Bartels, an architect serving as the project manager for both the EMP and Cap.

Matt has a long history with the CU system,

bringing essential knowledge and understanding to the types of projects that need this level of tailored attention.

With no further ado, please join me in welcoming Welcoming Jarrett to the podium.

Right. And I haven't gotten applause ever.

So thank you so much. My name is Jarrett.

A lot of you know me. Some of you don't.

First of all, thanks so much for coming and spending some time with us today as we talk about, the CU Anschutz Climate Action Plan.

This is something that's, it's been a work in progress for the better part of a year.

We hope to have this thing wrapped up by July.

And I know our consultants are going to kind of go over the time frame for some of this stuff and some of the data that we've gathered.

And they'll also talk about our energy master plan. Allen just mentioned we just finished an energy master plan project that helps

us with our greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts to the year 2050.

Our goal is to get to zero emissions. That's our goal philosophically.

But also, the state legislature said we have to do that as well. So we have a plan for that.

But that's largely how we heat and cool our buildings, how we light our facilities, all that kind of stuff.

We call that scope one and two emissions. We'll go over that in detail, a little bit later.

And that's largely an exercise for the engineers, for construction folks, for architects, and for the people who have money to pay for it.

Right. Not for the general campus population, but the climate Action Plan, this is for all of us. This is the handbook for how you could be involved with our climate change mitigation efforts.

And I really appreciate you being here. you're going to learn some stuff.

What we've been doing, what we hope to do.

The goal of this climate action plan all along is to have as many voices from our campus community involved as possible.

And so this is our second town hall.

We'll have another one when we get to kind of our our we've got the first draft of this completed, at the beginning of the summer.

We hope you'll attend that, too. but it's very important that you if you're here today, you might as well participate.

You're going to see a QR code come up. Eric is going to explain how all that works.

There will be some polling we really would love to get, your involvement with this.

So but again, thank you for being here. And I just one other thing, because we got a lot to cover.

These are uncertain times. I don't know if you guys look at the news.

These are uncertain times.

But one thing that's certain that I can tell you is that this campus will keep working on its climate mitigation efforts.

Okay, we will keep working. Thank you.

We will keep working, to to do what we can, what we contribute, to to the climate crisis and to increase resiliency on campus.

So matter what storm comes through, whether it be the literal or the figurative that we might be dealing with right now, we'll be ready.

Okay, this is all part of that. Again, thank you for being her. Okay, everybody with that

let's get started. We're voices in the sky

I know, but, thank you for coming. Thank you for being here. We're going to go through a quick welcome and introductions.

The whole CU system, I would argue, has been a leader in in climate and climate change and climate preparedness.

It's great to see Anschutz. really take charge of this and do this amazing work.

So thank you to Jared and his team for that. As you heard, we're from Canon Design.

I'm joined today with my, partner in crime here, Deb Favaretto.

And we're going to ask you a lot of questions. We're really here to listen, not to talk.

So, keep that. Keep that in mind that we want to hear from you.

This is really a chance for us to explore

what's on your mind? What your concerns are, what your worries are, what your interests are.

Really. And I really, as your facilitators, we're trying to push you outside of your comfort zone a little bit,

just, you know, because to us, that's really where the magic happens, right? And I'm hoping that this also opens your eyes to what the, the amazing sustainability team on campus has been doing.

We're also happy to share these slides with all of you. Of course they're there.

You're welcome to have them. We're also recording this, at least on the screen anyway

just in case somebody says something really clever, then we don't miss it, right?

And we're going to be using a tool today called Poll Everywhere. You've probably used some version of this before.

There's another one called Menti Meter. It's kind of the same thing. So I want you to get your phones out.

You need, you need a device for this. Any device will do. But phones are easiest.

And you can either point it at this QR code or go to that URL. That's the one we'll be using for the entire hour here. I'll give you a moment to point and click.

I see people holding their phones. That's good. I also put it in the chat for the people online.

Okay. And then it'll push. It'll push the activities to you. So you don't really need to do anything, but just get your phone at the ready.

Okay. So what we're going to do is, we're going to go through a little bit of context very, very quickly.

We're going to we're going to take you through really two main groups of exercises and impact and urgency exercise,

which looks at the draft of the current climate action plan and helps you rank them,

and then a sustainability health exercise that really gathers your input.

And then we're going to be done in 53 minutes, believe it or not.

Now, the purpose of this is because we really need your voice. We need to hear from you.

So I'm going to start with an easy one for you,

which is really quite simply, which one best describes you and you might have multiple roles here,

you might be both a student and staff or a faculty and a student.

You know, you might be a combination,

but given that which one of these best describes you and you can pick pick the one that's you know closest to what you are.

And again the URL is up here on the screen. The QR code is up here if you like.

You can see the responses already coming in. A lot of staff so far.

30 more seconds. Okay, we'll wrap this one up.

Okay, another easy question for you.

Who's not here, but but you think should be. So this is an open ended question.

Who's not here, but should be. This is always dangerous because sometimes people write in things like Ronald McDonald or something like that.

Please don't do that. This is a serious, trying to be serious question.

We'll keep it open for you so you can answer.

There's 52 people still filling out 51 now. And this question just lets us know who else we need to include in the process.

These responses are great. Thank you. Okay, I'm going to leave this open.

And then. Then we'll talk while you're still answering. But you should be able to continue answering.

Okay, let's let's set some context for why we're doing this.

Unfortunately, you've all just lived through the 12 hottest months on record and that keeps to be.

Coming. Something that is just true now all the time. The trouble is, of course, this red line 2024 was the hottest year on record, 2023 was the previous record holder and it was broken.

2025 of course, we're just one quarter in, but it looks like it'll be one of the top three hottest years on record.

This is just a thing that happening. It's happening now, right? This has become our unfortunate new normal.

And at a time when we should be taking action, we still have a lot of confusion from the general public about what is going on with this.

We, we're trying to explain science, very technical science, to everybody.

But let me simplify it for you.

The extreme weather damage exacerbated by climate change is costing us \$16 million an hour and has for the last 20 years.

So when people say we can't afford it. I would argue, well, we can't afford not to address it, right?

And yet we we tend to get muddled with things.

I don't know if you remember, but when electric cars came out, people were complaining because they were too quiet.

That was there. That was a complaint. Oh, these damn cars are too quiet.

I don't know why that was a bad thing, but that was one of the complaints.

And so it reminds me of this quote by Vonnegut.

And in it, he says, we're going to go down in history as the first society that wouldn't save itself because it wasn't, quote, cost effective.

And I but, you know, I don't know if, if you like Vonnegut as much as I do, but he's hilarious.

And this is such a great thing. Let's look at the facts, shall we?

Now, the last ten years have been the hottest years on record, and unfortunately, this seems like it's going to remain.

And the climate crisis is also very much a global health crisis at the same time.

And what's more is that even since our last townhall in September. This has been reported this from the Colorado Sun that climate changes strengthen the drought even when we do get rain.

So we're getting, you know, warmer, wetter winters, but it's not helping the overall conditions.

And we are uniquely situated to be feeling the effects.

I would argue that probably all of us have now felt the effects of climate change here in Colorado.

And so to address that, the CU Board of Regents has passed a very bold sustainability resolution,

one of the best in the country, in my opinion, directing the university president and the chancellors to incorporate,

Lead standards into construction projects wherever possible to develop these comprehensive plans to reduce, climate pollution,

what we call greenhouse gas emissions, and incorporate these mandates for the governor's climate action Plan into each campus.

So that's why we're here. So the entire CU system is leading the way.

You probably don't know this, but we work at, you know, when we work at campuses all across the country,

they look to the CU system as an example of what's going on.

So you're doing something right. And so to that end, CU Anschutz has already published their energy master plan.

It's available online on the website for all to see.

Not to brag, but it's it's really well done.

How much we worked on it, but it's but really it was the reason it's well done is because of your staff.

You know what Andre and his team have done has been kind of remarkable with this bold vision.

And this is your roadmap of how to get there. So I encourage you to take a look at it, encourage you to read through it.

Deb, I'm jumping in, but, anything you want to add or include to this? I don't think so. No. This time. All right. Yeah. Thanks.

So it is. It is a roadmap to zero by 2050. I mean, it's literally driving directions of how they need to get there.

And it's very specific to your campus, including your current systems, your current infrastructure.

And how to really make that happen and that it's not easy.

So what what your, what your team has done has been kind of remarkable.

And we've just kind of, you know, put it into a book for them really is going to feels like it really came from Andre and his team.

But a very quick summary of the roadmap is, of course, let's reduce building energy consumption.

Right. That's the low hanging fruit. They've already been doing that. We're going to really ramp that up.

Number two is really employ heat pumps to take care of, you know, to really find, very efficient ways of heating and cooling.

We're relying on Xcel to do what they promise to do, which is greening their grid.

So we're counting on them at the same time. And we're trying to minimize the electrical demand and reduce steam,

because steam is just a lot of fossil fuels, required to make it to make it happen.

All of this, of course, as Jarret alluded to, is spread across three different categories of carbon emissions.

And these are the industry standard. There's scope one, which is the stuff that's that's owned or controlled by the campus.

In other words, the stuff that we burn here on campus and with a pilot light is essentially scope one.

So boilers, burners, right. Anything that's burning that stuff, that's all scope one emissions.

And what's great about it is that we control it. It's your campus. You can turn that pilot light off and on.

You can replace that equipment. but unfortunately it's a very small part of it.

Next up is scope two. This is bigger. Scope two is the energy that we purchase, the stuff that we buy from Xcel for example.

So it's not just electricity but also natural gas, steam, any other kind of specialty gases that we like.

All of that is under scope two. And that's bigger than scope one. But again, the campus controls it.

You're buying it. You're choosing who to buy it from.

Not that you have a ton of choice when it comes to who to buy electricity from, but but still, you're purchasing it.

And you could you could always offset that by making your own. So scopes one and two are included in the energy master plan.

The Climate Action Plan. What we're talking about today is focused on what we call scope three.

Scope three is all the stuff we buy. And a lot of it's not in our control because we have to buy it.

So you have a choice in who you buy from, I guess. But you still you still need supplies.

You still need paper. You still need materials, right? So you need them in order to run a university.

That's all under scope three. Those are the emissions associated with all that stuff that this that the school buys and even more detailed nerdy.

It's broken into a lot of different categories. I'm not going to read through all these, but scope three.

Scope three is technically the industry standard is 15 different categories.

We're going to focus on, the climate action plan, we're focusing on the five that are in bold there.

And so that's what the Climate Action Plan is really working on to really set that up for success.

So here has been the timeline. Today we're at Town Hall number two.

We had a previous town hall back in September, which was fun.

We have more stakeholder workshops coming up in May.

We're going to issue the draft report in mid-May, and then we'll have another town hall around June 26th.

The date hasn't been finalized yet, but sometime towards the end of June.

And then the final report wraps up at the end of July. So this is going to happen quickly.

That's why you're here. That's why we need your input.

We also wanted to show you a little bit of the numbers so far, and I'm going to throw it back to Deb for this part.

Yeah, thanks. Well, from those scope three, really, we can think of these, in this business, travel, purchasing, commuting and waste.

And really, if we want to think about this in the same metric, we can think about flights from Denver Airport to Heathrow, London Airport and back.

And so if you think about, business travel, that's over 8000 flights to London and back purchasing is almost 8000.

They're very similar in terms of one year. This is one calendar year 2023, which is our baseline year, of data.

Commuting is around 4000 flights and waste, which is a big focus area for us on campus.

And there's a lot of waste related to medical research facilities.

But that in terms of emissions is about 410.

So it's a good way of understanding the scale of these kind of big elements that that add greenhouse gases into the environment.

Okay. And then we're also building a dashboard for you.

So all of this information can be made transparent not only to all the CU students and staff and faculty, but to everybody.

Really, right? You can this will be on your website and and people and it's interactive.

People will be able to click through it and control it and see where all this stuff is.

So we're making all this information available. Okay. So now let's get into why you're here.

Really this impact and urgency exercise. And we're going to ask you it's about 12 questions.

And there there there's a lot of text. So get your phones back out again.

And the first question is when it looks at our commuting goals we're going to show you the community goals.

We want you to essentially pick the three that you think are the most impactful, the ones that we should be doing right away.

Now they all or they all might sound good. They might sound bad. I don't know, you have to look at them, but I want you to pick your top three.

And it's a lot of text. I apologize, but, but but this, this is, this is, you know, they're detailed.

So, here, pick your top three and, and, you'll start to see the results come in.

I'm going to give you, at least three minutes to read through everything, and then I'll shut up so you can read.

And that commuting question should appear on your phone. If it's not, you can hit the refresh button on your phone or on your web browser.

The way that you rank is that you need to click on what you like and move it up.

So we want to move them the top three up to the top three positions.

There we go. Also with some of this stuff, we may we might already be doing some of this stuff.

A lot of it we're not. But if we're doing it and it's on here, it helps us to know if it's effective or not.

So don't don't be afraid to say this is important even though we're already doing.

Absolutely. Also, you'll notice if you scroll to the bottom, that's where you can submit your response.

Democracy in action. We'll give this another minute.

30s. Sorry for the pressure.

It's like a game show. By now,

you've also likely found that when you click twice on each of the response options, that's when you get all the text.

Some of these are longer sentences than than others.

Okay. All right. Thank you for that. Let's, this is great.

All right. Next question. What's missing? This is a shorter one.

But if there's anything you feel is missing, you can add it here.

And maybe there's nothing missing. Maybe we've. Covered everything there is to know about commuting, but surely there's something that we've missed.

What's missing? I'll give you at least another minute.

Okay, let's give you another 30s just so you can wrap up.

Okay, let's move on. Sorry about that. Switching over to business travel.

Same question. What are your top three most impactful things that we should be doing right away?

Now this is for the business travel category. So. You'll see the full list of answers here.

Pick your top three. Nice.

Okay, one more minute. Okay.

Last 15 seconds. Okay, let's move on.

Same follow up question. What's missing, if anything?

Give you a minute for this. Let's try to wrap this up in another 30s or so.

Okay, ten more seconds. All right.

Cool. Let's move on to action. This is the category of waste.

I want you to pick your top three most impactful initiatives around waste and what you think we should be doing right now.

You'll see the full list there. And, it's a lot to read through.

I know, but pick your top three. You still have two minutes left.

One minute left. Okay.

Start wrapping up. Okay.

You probably guessed by now the follow up question is what's missing?

We miss anything. Include your thoughts on what you think is missing.

I'll give you a minute and a half for this. Now the 30s.

Okay, let's wrap that up. Thank you for that. Okay.

We have four left. Next category, campus culture. This is,

this to me, is probably my favorite category in the climate action plan. I want you to pick your top three most impactful things that need to be done ASAP.

Okay, you have another minute. Okay, start to wrap it up.

Okay. And then do we miss anything around campus culture?

Anything from campus culture that we didn't include that you'd like to see as part of the climate action plan?

You a minute and a half for this. I'll give you another 30s or so.

I'll give you another 20s. As you finish up.

Okay. And next question is around purchasing what the what the university buys.

Right. What are your what do you think are your top three most impactful initiatives that should be done ASAP?

Now remember, the plan is recommending we do all of these.

We're just looking for your top three. And this one's a bit of a doozy. There's a lot in here. Thank you. All of this is really valuable information from you all.

You probably didn't think you'd be working so hard today during this. Thank you.

Okay, you got about another minute. Although I might give you an extra bit of time, given how many there are here.

It's interesting on every one of these. All of them have gotten picked at least once.

Sometimes we'll do this and we'll just people will vote for the same three.

It'll be a clear winner. But you're clearly you're enthusiastic about all of them, which is amazing.

Okay, let's start wrapping this one up. Sorry.

What's missing? Anything. I know, I know, we covered a lot, but maybe there's something that you were hoping to see or expecting to see.

Anything missing. Got another 30s or so.
They start wrapping up. All right when it comes to water.

What are the three most impactful things that you think we should do right away? They have a lot of options here.

We'll give you another minute. Okay.

Start wrapping up soon. Okay.

And then follow up question. When it comes to water, what's missing?

And then we one more after this. Then we go into a different exercise. You have another minute or so.

20s. Okay.

Start wrapping up. All right, last question. in the series.

This comes down to curriculum. This very much aligns with the Planetary Health Report Card.

This is to me the most exciting because it's engaging the students, right?

What are the three most impactful initiatives that you think we should do right away?

One more minute. 20s.

Okay, start wrapping up. And then of course, last question when it comes to the curriculum.

Anything missing? Anything you were hoping to see? 30 more seconds.

And then we're going to do three quick sprints. Okay.

All right. Next section is the sustainability and health exercise. These are going to be very quick uh frankly because we're running out of time.

But what are the human human health risks associated with climate change that you think are going to impact your campus community?

I'll give you just a minute. This is a word cloud, so just type in whatever you want.

I'll give you a minute for this. And the cool part is we can start to see the word cloud come together in real time.

This is the fun part. Oh, and the word cloud is quite literal.

So if you put pandemic and then someone else puts pandemics, it'll put it two separate words.

And fortunately it's annoying that way. But. Fires the big one in the middle.

All right, ten more seconds. Drought and fires?

Yes. I agree with all of these.

Okay. All right.

Wow. As you're wrapping it up, next question.

Quick, quick one. How do you think sustainable practices can be made more engaging to the campus community?

In this one, you're also able to upvote so you can hit the the like button to move it up and ranks.

Gamification. It's moving so fast, I can read them all.

Education.

Yeah. Wow.

Then we one more after this and then we're done. So 20s on us.

Excellent. Okay. Last question. How do you think sustainable practices can be made more engaging to the surrounding community?

Not the campus community, but the surrounding community? So similar question just focused on the surroundings.

To a quick round for that. And then you're all done.

And again you can upvote these as well. Collaboration dialog.

Good. Another 20s on this.

Okay. All right. Believe it or not, you're done.

The last question I have for you is a fun one. How do we do today?

And you could be quite critical, but, uh oh.

That's nice. Thank you. Deb, any any parting words?

Yeah. I just wanted to sincerely thank you. I know this was a quiet town hall.

But I think it gave. I hope it, gave you all an opportunity to really dig into the content.

And it is so important for us to have your feedback. So thank you.

Thank you for all of that. Really appreciate your time.

And then a reminder that, you can go to the sustainability web page.

You can sign up for the sustainability Group newsletter. You can share your ideas with Jared and his team, all from within.

The Anschutz thing. Otherwise, thank you for your time.

Thank you for spending your time with us and sharing your ideas. These are invaluable.

These will be put to work, immediately. So thank you for that.

And with that, we'll let you go. But have a good rest of your day.