

## **President's Task Force on Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Working Group on Energy and Buildings**

The Working Group on Energy and Buildings (Working Group 1) focuses on electricity and heat generation; energy and water consumption by University owned and leased building; and energy and water consumption by off-campus housing and other buildings used by the University community. Particular concerns the Working Group should pay attention to include:

- The relative roles of on-campus energy and utility-supplied energy
- Methane leakage associated with natural gas usage

The working group's remit includes both strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy and buildings, and also the resilience of energy infrastructure to climate change impacts. In addition to University operations, the working group should also consider cross-cutting themes related to: teaching; research; campus culture, engagement, and behavior; climate-positive economic development; and equity.

Questions the Working Group should address include:

- What is the profile of greenhouse gas emissions and physical climate risks associated with the working group's topical domain?
- What universities or other comparable institutions are leading on the working group's topical domain, what approaches are they employing, and what progress have they made?
- What approaches is Rutgers already pursuing?
- What are the most compelling and impactful approaches Rutgers could pursue?
- Are there approaches with a clear financial case and low institutional barriers that could reasonably be commenced before the completion of the climate action planning process?

For each proposed approach, consider:

- What are the associated emissions reduction and resilience improvements; financial costs and savings; educational, research, and culture benefits; and other co-benefits?
- How would the proposed approach be implemented, and on what timescale?
- What research and planning is needed to implement the approach?
- How would progress be evaluated?
- What are the roles associated with University leadership, chancellor-level units, and other key players?
- Beyond financials, what are the institutional, organizational and cultural challenges associated with implementation, and how might we overcome them?
- What strategies should be employed to ensure the participation and accountability of the full university community?
- To what extent would the approach engage Rutgers' external stakeholders and catalyze broader, climate-positive economic development in New Jersey?
- What equity considerations need to be addressed and managed, how will this be done, and who needs to be involved?

The working group should provide an interim report by April 1, 2020, to serve as input to the interim report due to President Barchi at the end of April. This interim report should clearly identify what is currently known and what additional analysis is needed. Please be sure to address opportunities for early action in this report. The working group's input to the draft final report should be provided by September 30, 2020, to allow for report integration.