



Meeting Summary
October 16, 2015

Council Members Present:

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs
Cindy Hale, Associate Vice President, Office of the Provost
Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Director, Department of Engineering and Energy
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Cheryl Plainte, Associate Director, University Marketing & Communications
David Barks, Assistant Director of Systems Architecture, Division of IT
Eric Wachsmann, Director, Energy Research Center and Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Dana Fisher, Director, Program for Society and the Environment and Professor, Sociology
Jelena Srebric, Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Samantha Bingaman, Undergraduate Student, Environmental Science and Policy
Todd Ross McGarvey, Graduate Student, Public Policy

Meeting start time: 11:00am

Meeting Highlights

Welcome, Introduction of New Members, Review of May 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance, welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order.

Sustainability Progress Report 2015

Sally DeLeon, Office of Sustainability, presented on the [2015 Campus Sustainability Progress Report](#). Highlights from the report include:

- The Office of Sustainability reorganized and redesigned the report to align with UMD's Sustainability Goals and to have a more interactive, online presence.
- Five years ahead of schedule, Dining Services has met their goal for 20% of the food served in Dining Halls to be sustainable (locally grown or produced, certified Organic, Certified Humane or certified Fair Trade) by 2020.
- The campus carbon footprint has been reduced 22% compared to 2005. The university is on track to meet its goal of a 25% reduction in campus greenhouse gas emissions by 2015.
- UMD was named a gold-level Bicycle Friendly University, the highest recognition that the League of American Bicyclists has given to any college or university in the Mid Atlantic. More people than ever before registered bikes on campus in 2014.
- The Partnership for Action Learning (PALs) got off to a great start by offering 26 courses and enrolling 567 students to work with the City of Frederick on advancing local sustainability efforts.

- Almost 90% of the waste generated on campus was diverted from landfills by reusing, recycling and composting programs. *Sierra Magazine* recognized UMD with a Special Achievement Award in Waste Minimization.
- Over 3,700 Small Footprint Pledges were taken on campus in 2014-2015 for a combined savings of over 23,000 pounds of waste, 5.7 million gallons of water, and over 275,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

ACUPCC – Expansion of Commitment to Address “Resiliency”

Sally DeLeon, Office of Sustainability, presented on an update to the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (**Appendix A**). This updated commitment addresses resiliency and adaptation strategies of university and college campuses in response to climate change.

- Current signatories of the ACUPCC will automatically continue as “Carbon Commitment” signatories who are committed to reducing campus greenhouse gas emissions.
- There is also an opportunity to sign new “Climate Commitment” instead of the Carbon Commitment, which also incorporates adaptation and building resilience to climate change in addition to greenhouse gas reductions.

By signing the commitment UMD would commit to:

- Within 2 months: Incorporate the topic of resilience into our internal structures for climate action planning. This step is already underway, and the Office of Sustainability has raised the topic of resilience at all initial stakeholder meetings for revision of the Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Within 1 year and every year after that: include language about the resilience planning process and progress in UMD’s annual submission to the ACUPCC.
- Within 1 year: Develop capacity and communication structure to share resilience-related planning and goals with College Park and PG County.
- Within 2 years: Complete a climate vulnerability assessment to formally identify assets for increasing resilience, gaps, and risks associated with the changing climate.
- Within 3 years: Publish resilience goals and strategies, implementation mechanisms, and plan for monitoring progress on resilience-related goals as part of the CAP or separate plan.

The Council voted in favor of recommending that the University of Maryland become a signatory to the new version of the Climate Commitment. Council members agreed that since resiliency work was already going to need to happen on campus, and that it would be in the university’s best interest to be prepared to impending climatic impacts, the University of Maryland should agree to the new measures laid out in the commitment. There is also an opportunity to merge the new ACUPCC commitment with the EOP/Risk Management/CaRES effort already underway (**Appendix B**).

Climate Action Plan Revision – Status Report

Mark Stewart, Office of Sustainability, presented a status report regarding the ongoing Climate Action Plan revision (CAP 2.0).

Objectives of CAP 2.0:

- Update and clarify strategies to meet 2020 (50% reduction) and 2025 (60% reduction) goals.
- Prioritize strategies to determine the most cost-effective path to achieving our goals.
- Identify stakeholders responsible for implementing each strategy.
- Create a mechanism for tracking stakeholder progress.
- Clarify funding sources and savings potential.

- Increase readability by moving CAP to an online format.

Timeline:

- The year-long CAP revision process began at a meeting last May with various stakeholders responsible for implementing strategies.
- Office of Sustainability and Environmental Finance Center staff members held several stakeholder meetings over the summer to create a vision for where the university is heading over the next 5 to 10 years related to specific areas of operations including commuting, air travel, forestation and fertilizer, and fleet.
- Currently, OS and EFC are fleshing out strategies from those meetings and starting to calculate the GHG impact of several strategies. For example, according to one study, the Purple Line could have 800 faculty, staff, and student commuters by 2025. If those commuters along the Purple Line route, then they may reduce commuting emissions by about 500 tons. Could be closer to 800 tons if long-distance commuters decide to drive, and then park, at Purple Line stations.

The Office of Sustainability intends to present chapters of CAP 2.0 to the Council throughout the year when drafts are ready to share. The first chapter would be on Solid Waste, which will ideally be ready for the Council to review in November. The goal is to have a complete draft of CAP 2.0 for the Council to review by April or May and to release to the campus community next fall.

Offsets Workgroup – Status Report

Last year, the Council created a Carbon Offset Work Group to explore opportunities for the university to get involved with implementing environmental projects off-campus that prevent or sequester greenhouse gas emissions. Mark Stewart, Office of Sustainability, presented an update on the Work Group's status and future plans.

Work Group Objectives:

Objective 1: Develop procurement guidelines for registered carbon offsets to specify the types, sources, terms and uses that are acceptable within the university's carbon management strategy.

Objective 2: Develop a plan to offset unavoidable emissions from air travel for Education Abroad, athletic competitions, faculty research and other necessary business trips. The plan should include guidelines for structuring an offsets portfolio and options for financing offsets.

Objective 3: Consider how the university's participation in the carbon offset marketplace could create new opportunities for local and regional carbon offset projects and/or study abroad experiences for students.

Objective 4: Determine if and how the university can participate in the carbon offset marketplace through non-financial transactions including student implementation of offset projects, faculty/staff consultation on offset projects, and other in-kind contributions.

Focus on Air Travel:

- The work group is focusing its attention on air travel because it is the part of the university's carbon footprint for which there are no good alternatives. It's very likely that if UMD does not address the GHG emissions associated with flying, then the university will not meet its Climate Action Plan goals in 2020.
- However, if the university can negate all emissions associated with purchased electricity, and hold emissions from CHP, generators, fleet, and commuting constant despite growth, then UMD will almost reach the 2020 target – but only if air travel emissions are offset (**Appendix C**).

- The work group is developing a plan to offset air travel emissions by trying to spur new environmental projects in Maryland, elsewhere in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, in states represented by the Big Ten Conference, and in developing nations that are suffering the most from the impacts of climate change.
- UMD faculty can contribute their expertise to develop all sorts of projects locally or internationally. The university can help farmers, business leaders, and government agencies find innovative ways of reducing GHG emissions while creating a new revenue stream for their operations.

Joanne Throwe, Director of the Environmental Finance Center and work group chair, has been appointed the new Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for the State of Maryland. Dan Nees has been reappointed to the Director position at the EFC, and will also assume chairmanship of the Carbon Offset Work Group, on which he's been an active member for the past nine months. The goal is to have Dan join the December Council meeting to present the work group's recommendations.

Adjourn: 1:00pm

Climate Leadership Statement

We, the undersigned presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities, believe firmly in the power, potential, and imperative of higher education's key role in shaping a sustainable society. Not only are we deeply concerned about the increasing pace and intensity of global climate change and the potential for unprecedented detrimental impacts, but we also understand that technology, infrastructure, global interconnectedness, and our greatest asset – engaged, committed, smart students – allow us to explore bold and innovative solutions and to lead in climate action and sustainable solutions.

We have begun to experience the effects of climate change in our communities and we understand that these effects are projected to become more severe and damaging. We recognize that mitigation and adaptation are complementary strategies for reducing the likelihood of unmanageable change, managing the risks, and taking advantage of new opportunities created by our changing climate.

We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by providing the knowledge, research, practice, and informed graduates to create a positive and sustainable future. Along with other aspects of sustainability, campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and by integrating resilience into their curriculum, research, and campus operations will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a vital, ethical, and prosperous civil society.

We further believe that exerting leadership in addressing climate change will reduce our long-term energy costs and the costs of climate disturbance, increase our quality of life, attract excellent students and faculty, and build the support of alumni and local communities.

We have resolved to take action in one of the following Climate Leadership Commitments. We believe carbon neutrality and resilience are extremely high priority areas of action for all institutions and we aim to lead the nation in these efforts. We urge others to join us in transforming society towards a sustainable, healthy, and more prosperous future.





Climate Commitment:

An integrated climate commitment including carbon neutrality and resilience

1) Develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan *

- a. Within two months of signing this document, create internal institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the Plan
- b. Within one year of the implementation start date, actively support a joint campus-community task force (or equivalent) to ensure alignment of the Plan with community goals and to facilitate joint action, and complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, also identifying near term opportunities for greenhouse gas reduction. Report these in the first annual evaluation of progress
- c. Within two years of the implementation start date, lead and complete an initial campus-community resilience assessment including initial indicators and current vulnerability
- d. Within three years of the implementation start date complete the Plan, (also reflecting joint community-campus components), which will include:
 - A target date for achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible
 - A target date by which defined thresholds of resilience will be met
 - Interim target dates for meeting milestones that will lead to carbon neutrality and increasing resilience**
 - Mechanisms and indicators for tracking progress (including those that cut across campus-community boundaries)
 - Actions to make carbon neutrality and resilience a part of the curriculum and other educational experiences for all students
 - Actions to expand research in carbon neutrality and resilience
- e. Review, revise if necessary, and resubmit the climate action plan not less frequently than every five years

2) Submit an annual evaluation of progress

- a. Within one year of the implementation start date, and every year thereafter, complete an annual evaluation of progress
- b. Make the action plan, annual evaluation of progress (including greenhouse gas inventory, resilience assessment etc.), publicly available by submitting them to Second Nature's reporting system for posting and dissemination

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* The plan may be designed to augment an existing sustainability plan, written as part of a new sustainability plan, or as a standalone plan. An [online guide](#) is available that provides information on successful institutional structures, helpful templates on climate action plans, useful indicators of progress, guidance for reporting and much more.

** Assistance for developing interim milestones and a number of example tangible actions are available online and are regularly updated.

Signed,

President/Chancellor Signature

President/Chancellor Name

College or University Name

Date

Please send the signed commitment document to:

Second Nature,
18 Tremont St., Suite 930
Boston, MA 02108

Or scan & email to:
commitments@secondnature.org

18 Tremont Street, STE 930, Boston, MA 02108 | 617.722.0036 | commitments@secondnature.org



Appendix B



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG)

Purpose and Definition

In efforts to ensure that the university is compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), in line with emergency management best practices, and provides the continuity of operations, the UMD Emergency Management Program has established the Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG).

The EMWG is a group of cross-divisional representatives from various critical functions that are needed to support the university's emergency management objectives and goals. EMWG responsibilities include the following:

- provide input on university-wide emergency management plans and policies
- promote cross-departmental and divisional collaborations
- ensure that various divisions, departments, and offices across campus have critical information regarding emergency preparedness and management
- ensure that emergency response plans for various functional areas are coordinated
- serve as a point of contact for their functional areas

Commitment and Projects

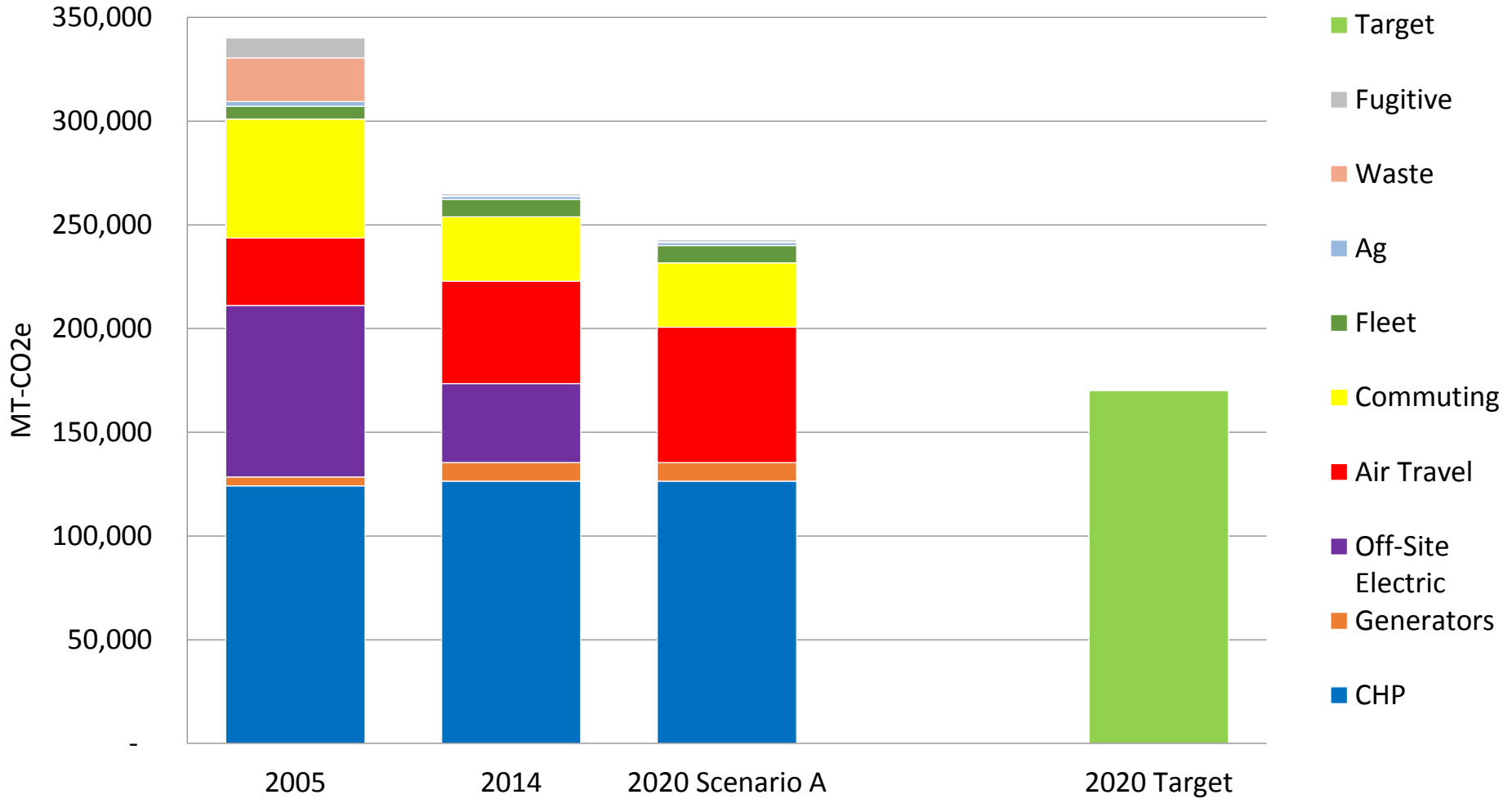
The EMWG will begin to meet as a group at the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester. The meetings will occur on a regularly scheduled basis. The duration of the meetings will be approximately 1.5 hours.

Some of the projects that the EMWG will collaborate on include the following:

- conduct a threat identification and hazard risk assessment (THIRA)
- update the university emergency operations plan (EOP)
- develop the multi-year training and exercise calendar

Future projects and tasks may include: a building/floor marshal program, Building Evacuation/Shelter Diagram Project, exercise support (disseminating information and participation), training and education (disseminating information and resources).

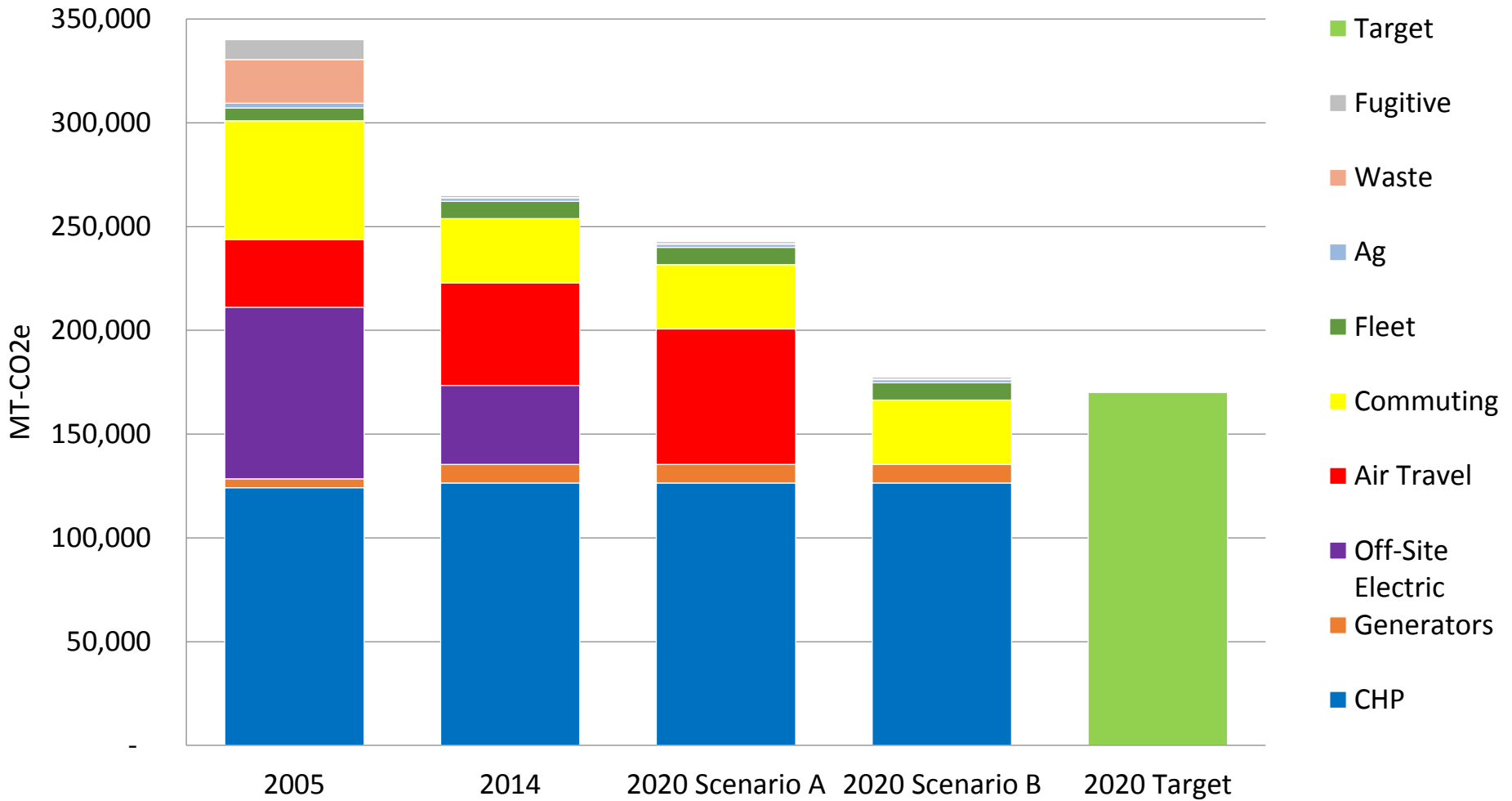
UMD Carbon Footprint



Scenario A assumptions:

- CHP, Generators, Commuting, Fleet, Ag, Waste, and Fugitive emissions remain constant.
- 100% renewable off-site electricity by 2020
- Air Travel increases at 4.76% annually

UMD Carbon Footprint



Scenario B assumptions:

- CHP, Generators, Commuting, Fleet, Ag, Waste, and Fugitive emissions remain constant.
- 100% renewable off-site electricity by 2020
- Carbon Neutral Air Travel