Council Members Present:

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs
Scott Lupin, Associate Director, Environmental Safety, and Director, Office of Sustainability
Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Director, Department of Engineering and Energy
David Cooper, Assistant Director of Systems Architecture, Division of IT
Steve Cohan, Professor of Practice, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
Samantha Bingaman, Undergraduate Student, Environmental Science and Policy
Bryan Quinn, Director of Technical Operation, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Jelena Srebric, Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Meeting start time: 10:30am

Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Review of November 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Carlo Colella welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order. Meeting summary from November 20 was approved.

Carbon Offset Workgroup Report
Daniel Nees from the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) presented the Carbon Offset Workgroup Report to the Council. **See Appendix A for Dan's presentation.**

Carbon Offset Project Verification
Sam Hoffer from Verified Carbon Standard presented information to the Council about the process of verifying carbon offset projects. **See Appendix B for Sam's presentation.**

Following the presentations from Daniel and Sam there was a brief discussion about carbon offsets and whether the university should develop a policy about investing in carbon offset projects. There was no final decision or vote taken at this time. The Council agreed to continue the discussion in 2016.

University Sustainability Fund Projects

Samantha Bingaman, representative of the Student Government Association, presented three University Sustainability Fund projects to the Council for review:

Off-Grid Small Scale Wind Turbine
This grant will support the construction of a small wind turbine prototype by the Manufacturing Building. It will be primarily used as a research and educational tool. The estimated life span is 5 years.

The Council voted to approve the request of $9,000 with one condition: the height needs to be determined and approved by Facilities Management.

Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS)
Funding request from the National Center for Smart Growth to aid in collaborative efforts with local communities. For this semester, PALS will partner with Anne Arundel County. The Council voted to approve the request of $25,000.
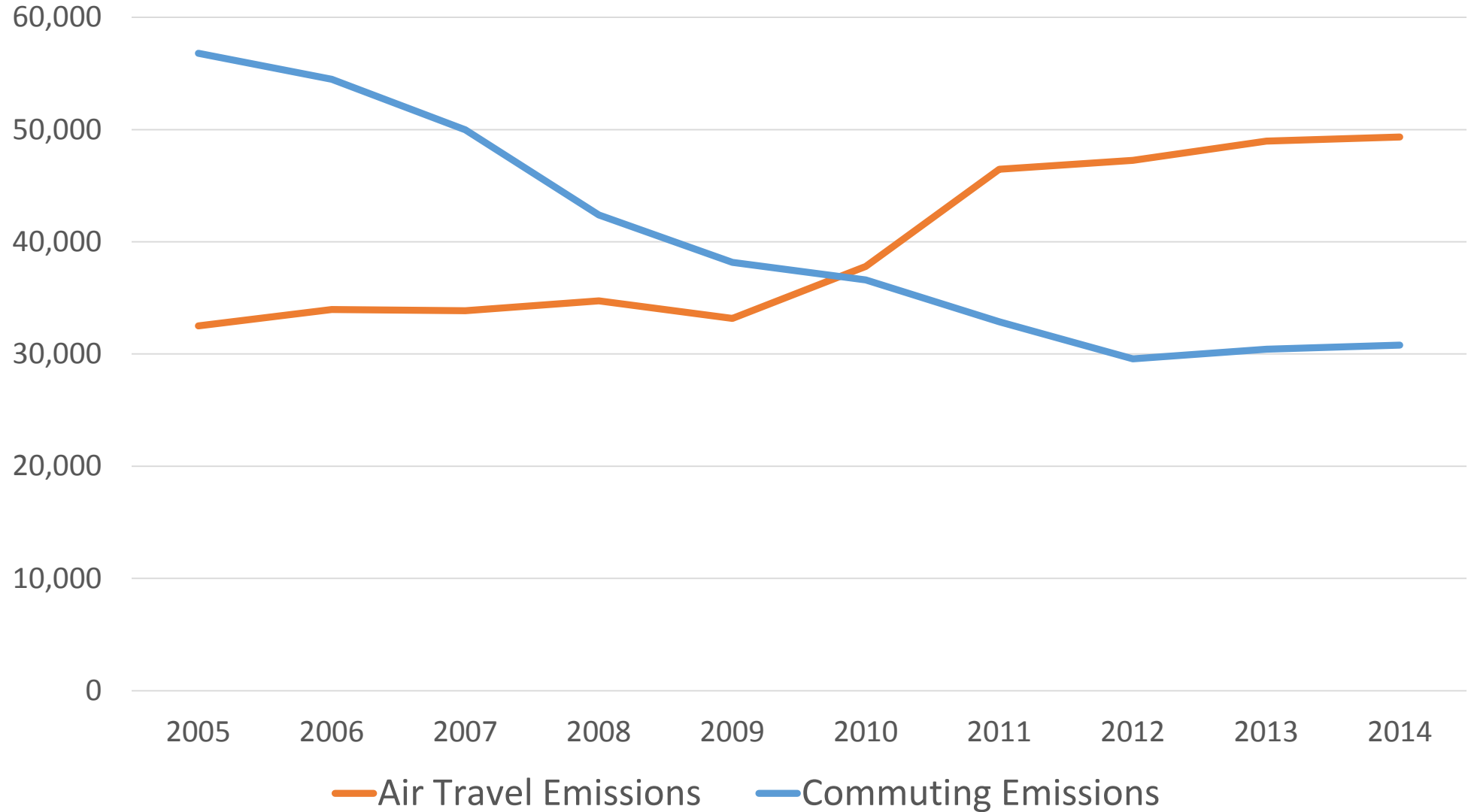
Team Nature
Gemstone Team Nature hopes to research alternatives to film, notably cellulose nanopaper (CNP). The fund request would cover expenses to initiate and support the project. The Council voted to approve the request of $1,631.

Adjourn: 12:30pm

Air Travel and Commuting Emissions
(MT-CO$_2$e)

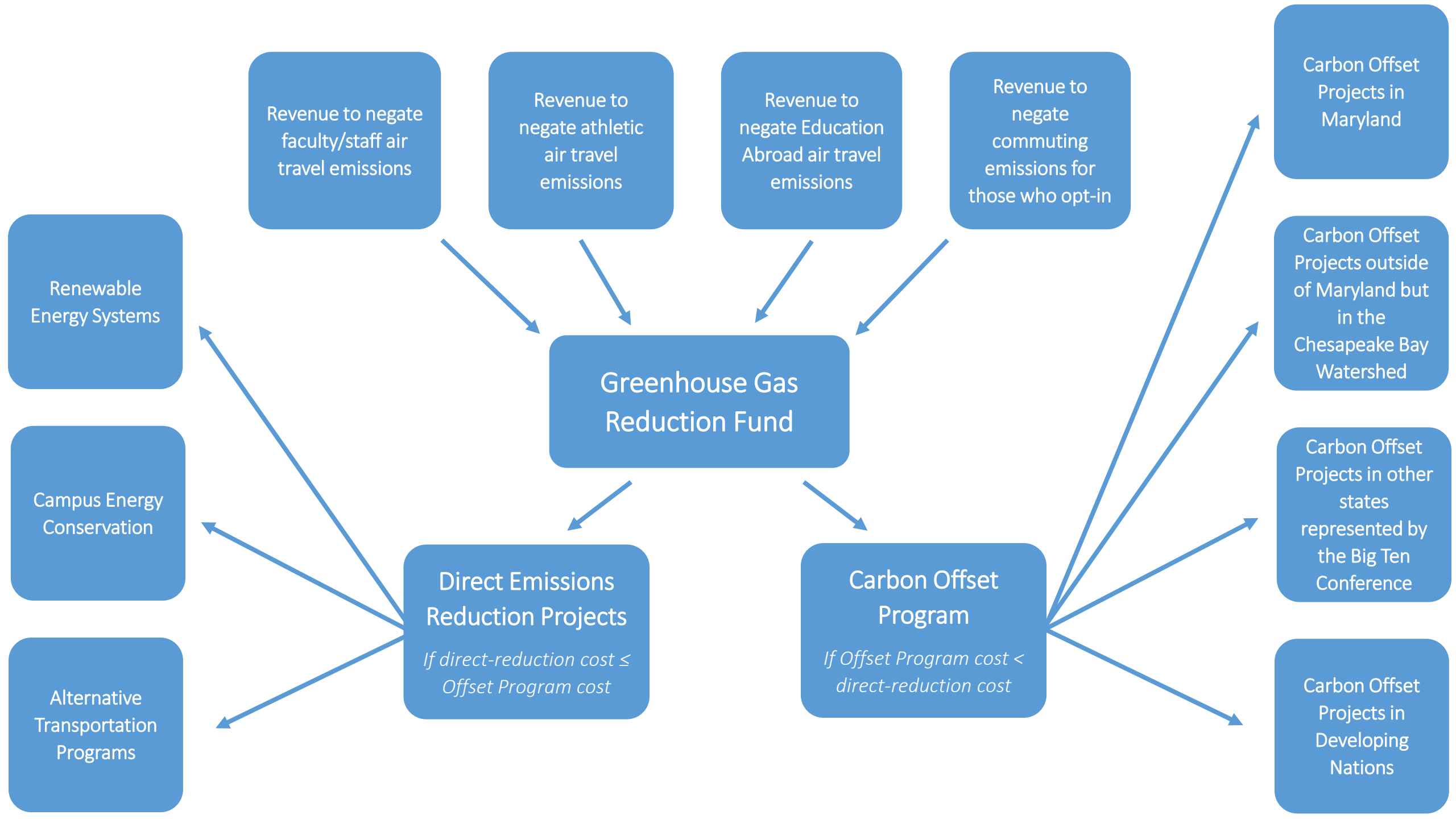Air Travel Emissions   Commuting Emissions

Carbon Offset Financials

- Estimated 2014 offset price: $5.47 (50% global; 50% local)
- Assume 5% discount/inflation rate
- Assume annual air travel emissions increase of 2.79%
- 2020 estimated air travel emission: 57,583 MT-C0$_2$e
- 2020 estimate offset cost: $422,105

Carbon Offset Financials

2020 Cost Break Down:

- Faculty/Staff air travel: $269,919

- Education abroad air travel: $127,567

- Athletic air travel: $24,620

UMD Carbon Footprint
(MT-CO2e)

Legend:
- Target
- Refrigerants
- Waste
- Ag
- Fleet
- Commuting
- Air Travel
- Off-Site Electric
- Generators
- CHP

X-axis: 2005, 2014, 2020 w/o offsets, 2020 w/ offsets, 2020 Target

Y-axis: -, 50,000, 100,000, 150,000, 200,000, 250,000, 300,000, 350,000

Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)

- World's largest voluntary GHG program

- Non-profit organization headquartered in D.C.

- Our work:

  - Program administration, oversight, and development

  - No consulting, project / methodology development, or verification services

VCS verification process

- Ensures integrity of emission reduction claims
- Validation and verification
  - Validation = audit of project design
  - Verification = audit of emission reduction reporting
- Validation/verification bodies (VVBs)
  - Environmental auditing firms
  - Accredited to do VCS validations and verifications
- VCS oversight
  - Accuracy reviews
  - Contractual obligations