

Gather-All Group Mitigation Ideas

Food Ideas

1. Sourcing leafy greens and produce from non-farm (vertical farms, aquaponics) from 3rd party company
2. Aggressive target to reduce the percentage of animal-based calories
3. Eliminating beef on campus (big agreement in the room) - what food services offers. Would need to have education during rollout. Education piece is critical. Highlighting fact that all farm animals not equal in carbon.
4. Make amazing vegetarian meals rather than “just vegetables” to make it very approachable. Have people embrace a more vegetarian lifestyle than completely.
5. Meatless Mondays in food services. More vegan options
6. Cost food served on campus based on carbon footprint of sourcing. High carbon footprint foods cost more for students to purchase. Internal “carbon tax.” Type of food, where sourced, etc.
7. Support local food - buying meat locally. Maybe not as much meat that week because it wasn't available locally.
8. Support regional farms - as much food as we can. Be proactive. Set up contracts.
9. Education on nutrition of different diets. Maybe a sign in front of food: this is how much protein comes from _____.
10. Terraverde (in Central): food is getting tastier! Look at how sales have increased in the past year. Expand hours on Terraverde.
11. Increasing how much we purchase from AppState SD farm. Looking at what it does provide now and what it could provide in the future.
12. Use report (Eat Lancet) as a resource for education of dietary changes / nutrition / human health / planetary health.
13. College is an excellent opportunity to learn how to cook: have to cook to use more local food. Dorms are unusable cooking spaces to get tools to need: bring card down and check out pan, spatula, and baking sheet. Kitchen tool library.
14. Most dorms only have one kitchen or one kitchen per floor: not enough room for everyone to cook! Maybe common kitchen for every 3-4 dorm rooms.
15. New construction: rooftop gardens/green roofs on top of new dorms. Spaces per student to grow their own food. Losing Roots Garden eventually. Have compost up there, more rainwater collection, green spaces.
16. Work with landscapers: create more small-scale community spots on campus to grow your own food.
17. Lessing minimal required meal plan for students who live on campus. Include small businesses outside of campus. AppCards use at local businesses to eat locally.

18. Food waste at Food Services. Donate leftover food to food pantry. Policy to freeze leftover meals and serve the next day. Some process or policy to use food rather than composting.
19. Courtyard in between P3 buildings: gardening space. Individual plots AND community spaces.
20. Compost bins scattered around campus and in the dining halls: for people not living on campus.
21. If expanding composting on campus, for students living on campus, formal training or education on waste sorting - what to compost, landfill, and recycle. RA training session to train residents.
22. Holding students accountable - if you come to this school, don't use plastic bags/charge for plastic bags/no plastic bags at campus stores. Go through training. Held responsible to be a part of the school.
23. Working with markets on campus to eliminate single-use. Invest in compostable/plant based packaging. Ban straws. Providing multiple use to first year students.
24. Need working group that is made up of community members not affiliated with University from the region - to have input from people who have to live and work here and are impacted by the University.
25. As increase food access on campus, decreasing vending machines or looking at content of vending machines.

Energy

26. Renegotiate contract with NTE energy. Students and community also need a voice in negotiating deal so it is transparent and everyone knows what's going on in the decision-making process.
27. Near Walmart Greenway Road - IRC plant lot - solar panels on lot. Or a big garden! Or both.

Transportation

28. Disallow cars for freshman + sophomores living on campus. Expand bus system (Appalcart). Help Appalcart electrify fleet. Add bus service off the mountain, more routes, to help people get on and off the mountain. Incentivize in every way people not having personal automobiles.
29. Buy carbon offsets to offset transportation (driving, airfare, buses, etc.). For students, staff, and faculty. University to pay for offsets.
30. Stricter criteria for getting parking pass - if live close to bus stop, denied parking pass.
31. Increase walkability and accessibility. Long walk to stores - not as accessible to everyone. Not a lot of walking / bike-riding friendly places off of the main campus.
32. Important to consider people who do go off the mountain frequently. Charter bus takes forever, pretty expensive, have to pay extra to get further.

33. Opportunity for freshmen to get outdoors: Appalcart to Blue Ridge Parkway.
34. Make sure there's a process for exceptions: specific to your situation and needs.
35. Build in carbon offset into price of parking permit.

Education

36. Climate literacy training, in all classes, talk about sustainability and ways you can be sustainable. Give them the tools to be sustainable. Way for information to be given to students in a structured way.
37. Opening campus-wide SD email - update everyone on what we're doing sustainability-wise. Hit all majors to have access to the information.
38. Incorporate sustainability in courses. Add to curriculum. Whatever freshman seminar / RC you take, incorporate sustainability, so every freshman has to be exposed. More integrated.

Health

39. Working group that focuses on mental health. Very targeted approach.

Housing

40. Boone very expensive place to live, especially for low-paid staff. University put money into affordable, energy-efficient staff / faculty housing. Building more energy-efficient student dorms.
41. Campus policing could be reduced: there is a lot of police presence in Boone that makes people feel uncomfortable and not want to live on campus (lots of snags).

Expansion / Community

42. University developing outside local community input. Can town of Boone have more input on how the University expands and how it affects the local community?
43. Cap on University growth (Lots of agreement in room).
44. Fund public land trust: offer affordable, local housing that can stay the same price for a long time.
45. Incentivize local service work - lower housing, pay for laundry... Incentivizes student body as a whole and educate why local service work is important. Require active service hours in order to graduate.

Working

46. Four-day (32-hour) work week. Increase pay so still proportional. Happiness and carbon!
Four day class week.

Offsets

47. Creative ways of offsets to strengthen local economy: develop food waste reduction program at App, producing offsets by supporting regenerative agriculture locally, offsets via energy efficiency retrofit in low income homes in the local community (especially heating in winter), replace all farm meat with hunted animals (deer, wild hogs) to regenerate local forests
48. Evaluating offsets: look for programs that we get multiple benefits (social AND environmental, etc), not just carbon. Invest in proven ecological restoration strategies that increase carbon sequestration. Invest in solar panel installation and energy efficiency projects in communities as a justice project

Climate Crisis Plan

49. Calling it climate change is a little touchy. Get across that we are all in this together. It's a human issue, not a political issue.

Suggestions not captured in discussion (added post-discussion):

50. Agroforestry on campus, mixed tree/crop systems
51. Increase campus forestry
52. Transition NRLP to renewable, clean, and just energy
53. Automatic lighting in residential halls and academic buildings
54. Proper management of refrigerants (recycling or disposal) when dorms are torn down or refrigerators are retired
55. Model "flexitarian" diet in "Eat Lancet Report" in dining service
56. Transition to using B5 notebooks instead of letter-size notebooks to reduce paper waste
57. Better book rentals and returns
58. Passive heating via attached greenhouses and Trombe walls
59. Reduce thermostats to 65° max in winter (set points)
60. Change ROI calculation for retrofits/new constructions to consider full life cycle of buildings and all energy/operation costs
61. Change academic schedule to have fewer days in winter. Shut down buildings during longer breaks.
62. Change heating fuel source to electricity, biomass, sewage/compost, or landfill gas.
63. App that allows students to report HVAC or other building operation problems
64. Remove paper towels from bathrooms
65. Make sure climate neutrality is equitably available to diverse populations/institutions within Boone and Watauga County