

# TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND CLIMATE ACTION

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## Abstract:

University sponsored travel occurs across all university units as a key activity in higher education at many levels across the system. As a top public research university, Rutgers faculty, students and administration travel, for example, to facilitate collaborations, attend meetings and engage globally. In fact, solving problems and engaging with challenges on a global scale is among the central goals in higher education institutions. While advances virtual technology and the necessity of the pandemic has certainly shifted our methods of engagement, it has also severely limited, or even halted, certain kinds of connections, discussion, research and service. Yet, many climate action plans call for limiting travel, air travel in particular, setting up a conflict in university policy and the pursuit of educational excellence.

## Primary Stakeholders:

- Faculty, students, administrators and staff
- Climate Action Office
- University-wide units where travel is essential and who are involved in travel process, such as, Procurement and Rutgers Global.

## Key Steps/Activities:

1. **Discovery and benchmarking** – examine expense management data, survey employees, compare travel policies at other peer universities.
2. **Convene stakeholders** to discuss baseline travel footprint results and creation of reasonable goals for reducing our carbon travel footprint.
3. **Policy design**
4. **Design measurement system** to track progress
5. **Pilot testing and implementation** at the unit level
6. **Policy acceptance and implementation**

## Effectiveness Measures:

- The effectiveness of the policy will be compared to baseline measurements as well as coordinating with each stakeholder group's goals and needs.
- Agreement among stakeholders that change is needed.
  - Formal adoption of policy.
  - Examination of engagement data such as customer surveys and travel booked.

## Communication/Engagement:

- Initial communication will occur by coordinating with the Office of Climate Action activities, and other university activities such as, potentially, through the *“Knowledge Exchange in Pursuit of Organizational Excellence and the Beloved Community.”*
- Communities of practice/stakeholder groups will meet regularly to discuss goals and processes, and coordinate with the Climate Action Office.
- Digital communication to the public will occur through a dashboard.

## Proposed Timeline:

- **Summer and Fall 2022** – Discovery, data gathering, benchmarking and policy design
- **January 2023** – Project launch
- **Spring 2023** – Convening of stakeholders and policy design
- **Fall 2023** – POLICY LAUNCH

## Current Status/Future Directions:

This project is ready to transfer to the sponsor. Once accepted, discovery, benchmarking and baseline measurements will commence. Key next steps and activities will be confirmed and designed with sponsor including identify all stakeholders.