

# Campus Financing Strategies for Carbon Reduction

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# The C2E2

Campus Consortium for  
Environmental Excellence





# A costly proposition

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# Have We Begun the Conversation? Started the Analysis?

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# Our Research Method

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- Looked at Climate Action Plans, or equivalent
  - C2E2 members
  - President's Climate Commitment signatories
  - “Green” leaders – Sierra “cool campus”, SEI
- Sample of 16 CAP's reviewed to identify financing mechanisms
- Survey asking schools specifically about financing considerations

# CAP Review

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- The majority of schools have yet to submit CAPs
- Of available CAPs, many contain little or no information regarding financing options
- Of schools that do discuss specific financing options, financial discussion tends to be abstract with limited actual numbers presented

# CAP Review

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- Revolving Loan Funds are prominent
- Other popular tools
  - tax-exempt bonds
  - green student fees
  - power purchase agreements with utility companies
  - sale of RECs created by on-site renewable energy projects.
- Innovative ideas (e.g., intra campus cap and trade, willing technology pilot)



# Survey

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1. Is your institution developing long term carbon reduction strategies?
2. Is your institution considering specific financing strategies?
3. Which of the following options have you considered?
4. Have you estimated carbon costs?

# Nearly Everyone Developing Climate Action Plans

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*Fewer are Looking at Financing*

- 88% of respondents developing climate action or energy master plans (n = 18)
- 59% considering specific strategies for financing carbon reduction projects, initiatives or technologies

# Capitalizing Sustainability

	Currently Used	Likely to be Used in Future	No Plans to Use	Not Considered
Green Student Fees	13%	13	63	25
Revolving Loan Fund	43	14	43	0%
Grants/direct financial support	71	14	14	0%
Tax-exempt Bonds	33	0	33%	33%
Leasing arrangements	17	33	50	0%
Institutional Assets – Revenue Sources	29	29	57	0%
Performance Contracts	0%	40	60	0%
PPA	50	33	0%	17
Energy Hedges	33	17	17	33
Alumni Giving	50	33	0%	17

# Final Slide

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- The conversation is happening
- Use of revolving loan funds is already underway, but ultimate success of such programs requires initial capital
- Interest in using other people's money for projects/technologies on campus
- “We will find the money when we have to”
- Thanks to Jake Elder, Trinity College '09