LA 410/510 Design for Climate Action
Winter 2020: Developing a climate action plan for the City of Silverton

CRN: 26065 (undergrad); 26066 (grad), 4 credits
Lawrence 231, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 am -- 11:20 am
Instructor: Yekang Ko, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture (yekangko@uoregon.edu)

Image 1: UN Sustainable Development Goals #13 Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Image 2: South Bay Cities Council of Governments Climate Action Planning

This new course offers a systematic overview of climate action planning and design and an opportunity to make a real-world impact. Students will learn how climate action planning works by hearing from guest speakers, reviewing best practices, and actually contributing to a real municipal climate action plan through a term-long planning project.

In Winter 2020, this class will work with the City of Silverton through the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) and the College of Design student group Design for Climate Action. Building upon the 2018 Silverton Energy Plan developed by the Sustainable Silverton Committee (an ad-hoc citizen environmental group), students will further develop specific planning and design strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation around the six action areas identified in the Energy Plan, offer cost estimates, and recommend funding strategies. The city is currently applying for state funding to actually implement our recommendations on the ground. At the end of the term, the class will deliver a climate action plan draft report and make a formal presentation to the City of Silverton City Council.

The course includes lectures, guest lectures, discussions, field trips, community engagement (with the Sustainable Silverton citizen committee and Environmental Committee at a local high school who is working with Mayor), and a formal presentation to the City Council.

For interdisciplinary learning, students from all disciplines are more than welcome. SAE, PPPM, ENVS, ESCI, and Geography majors are directly related to this course content. Design skills are welcome but not required for the project.