

President's Sustainability Committee

Minutes

January 23, 2017, 1:00-2:30 pm

TILT 104

Members Present:

Carol Dollard – Facilities Management – Co-Chair of PSC
Tonie Miyamoto – HDS, Student Affairs – Co-Chair of PSC
Stacey Baumgarn – Facilities Management
Van Wallace – Facilities Management
Tony Rappe – Chemistry
Farrah Bustamante – Procurement Services
Jake Drenth – Surplus Property
Paul Doherty – Faculty Council
Andrew Warnock – College of Natural Sciences Education and Outreach
Sheela Backen – Facilities Management
Mary Guiden – External Relations / PR
Peter Backlund – SoGES
Tim Broderick – HDS
Chris Giglio – EHS
Jocelyn Hittle – CSU System
Kailey Carlson – ASCSU Environmental Affairs – Sustainability
Bill Timpson – College of Health and Human Sciences
Anne Bohm-Small – VPR/APC
John Fitch – Morgan Libraries
Manny Santistevan – EcoLeader representative

1. STARS Update

- a. At this point in time we have a provisional score of 85.91, which puts us in Platinum
 - i. Following many contributions and much work, a few final items helped to pull us over the 85 threshold into Platinum, special thanks to:
 1. Refined learning outcomes section (Thanks Kirstie)
 2. Water credit (Thanks Chanin)
 3. Green Cleaning practices and employee compensation
 - ii. Tim is investigating the “Colorado Proud” label as a third-party label for food purchases in Dining Centers – we could see ourselves in the 86 + range with this change
- b. Thanks everyone for the continued work! STARS 2.1 has certainly set the bar higher with increasing stringent criteria. Everyone has worked hard to bring us up to Platinum
- c. All revisions for STARS should be in by **January 30th**
- d. Following a **January 31st** meeting with Lynn Johnson, Carol and Tonie anticipate submitting our STARS 2.1 to AASHE in the first days of February
 - i. Any submittal above 85 points triggers an automatic comprehensive third-party review by AASHE. AASHE will have 30 days to review and return questions / evaluation back to us
 - ii. We then have two weeks to contest / make change in our submittal
 - iii. Everything should be finalized by mid-March
 - iv. Pending outcome – we are exploring having a campus-wide celebration – to recognize all of the people who have contributed and helped to complete our STARS submittal
- e. In the discussion with Lynn, Tonie and Carol will also highlight a few of the credit areas where we have room to improve and where future progress can be made given Lynn’s support
 - i. CSU Fleet – vehicle utilization study. Remember, request a hybrid when you use Fleet!
 - ii. Clean (carbon-free) energy procurement

- iii. Green buildings – solidify commitment to high-performing buildings – invest a little more in first costs (energy efficiency investments) to save money on future utility expenses
 - 1. Paul pointed out an issue regarding some of the new buildings / additions – when funded by the College – the College is being asked to pay for the higher-performing / energy efficient “upgrades” if desired but then, the savings actually return to the university – could those savings return to the College?
 - 2. Higher first costs for high-performing / energy-efficiency buildings is a challenge. However, life-cycle cost analysis has proven that the high-performance, energy-efficiency investments outweigh the upfront costs over the life of the building
- iv. Food purchasing
 - 1. STARS no longer gives (partial) credit for “local” food purchase if that company is publically traded. To receive points – purchases must be strictly “local” and non-publically traded or carry a third-party certification (i.e. Fair Trade, Organic, etc.)
 - 2. Bill Timpson mentioned a connection he has to local start-up that may meet the new criteria
- f. External Relations is interested to utilize our sustainability accomplishments as a central story for CSU. The <http://green.colostate.edu> website was launched about one-year ago. Let’s all take a fresh look at those pages
 - i. What needs updating? What do you love? What would you like to highlight for your program, department or college?
 - ii. Please help brainstorm fresh stories, new (high quality) photos, or ideas for videos
 - iii. Stacey asked about any existing analytics for the site? Where are people looking now? Tonie is going to look into this
 - iv. Could we construct a timeline of sustainability milestones, commitments, at CSU?
 - v. This website has made a big splash – let’s make it bigger and better
 - vi. **Please send your ideas / feedback / suggestions to Tonie by February 14th.** Then, changes, updates, and improvements are ready by Earth Week
- g. Another idea / possibility: create a series or commemorative collection of Sustainability Posters
 - i. Create posters that people would want to hang in a department office, home, etc.

2. Earth Week Planning

Earth Week April 17-21, 2017 – schedule of (known) events. If you have other event information to add to this list – *please provide updates to Tonie by Feb 14th*. Thanks!

- April 17th:
 - 10 am-Noon – Earth Sun & Fire Tour – a tour at the Foothills Campus including visits to the compost operations, the Chrisman Field Solar Plant, and the Biomass Plant
 - A bus has been reserved to transport attendees from Main Campus to Foothills Campus
 - We will be using [Lot #575](#) (just south of the new South College Ave Parking Garage). Visiting community members could use hourly parking in the garage, and the bus could load in the adjacent lot
 - Mary suggested that we should send a special invite to local policy makers
 - 10:30 am-1:30 pm – [Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase](#) (CURC) – LSC Ballroom
- April 18th:
 - 11 am-1 pm – Compost Give-Away and E-Waste Collection events – will investigate using the Research Boulevard [Lot #740](#) to avoid construction areas
 - 6:30 pm – [Presidents Community Lecture Series](#) featuring Dr. Wayne McIlwraith – Lory Student Center Theatre

- April 19th:
 - Campus-wide celebration of STARS (time and location TBD)
 - 3 pm – [GDPE Distinguished Ecologist Seminar Series](#): Ruth Shaw (location TBD)
- April 20th:
 - 4 pm – EcoLeaders Showcase – at the Pavilion in Laurel Village
 - Plate-Waste Audit in Dining Center(s)
 - 3 pm – [GDPE Distinguished Ecologist Seminar Series](#): Ruth Shaw (location TBD)
- April 21st:
 - 10 am-2 pm – Earth Day Festival! Join us in the LSC Sutherland Sculpture Garden
 - If you want a table at the Earth Day Festival – Tim will be sending information soon to register your group / department
 - Alternative Transportation event (following up with Aaron Fodge)
 - Possibility for a few sponsorships
- Other events:
 - April 14th-21st – [ACT Humans Right Film Festival](#)
 - April 22nd, 11 am-5 pm – Sustainable Living Association & City of Fort Collins [Earth Day Fort Collins](#) – at Civic Center Park
 - April 22nd, 9 am-4 pm – [James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital Open House](#)
 - April 24th-25th – [Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene Symposium](#)

3. Updates from members

Carol Dollard:

- Student representatives of the Climate Reality Project will be meeting with CSU President Tony Frank on January 25th to discuss the *100% Committed* Pledge – a pledge for CSU’s electricity to be 100% renewable by 2030.
- Thank you to a grassroots effort by CSU faculty to create a pledge for – [CSU Faculty In Support Of Climate Change Action](#) – if you are a faculty member, please consider adding your name to this list. Peter Backlund volunteered to find out if/how other CSU employees can join this pledge – check the website for updates.
- Following previous conversations here at PSC, it has been determined that CSU will not be a dues-paying member of [Second Nature](#) (the \$4,500 annual dues are too high for the benefits received). Second Nature is now the caretaker of the commitment formerly known as the American College & University President’s Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), which CSU signed in 2008. Our commitment and pledge are [still in place](#) – the University will just not be paying the dues to have our name listed as a member of the Climate Leadership Network.
- Facilities Management and CSU Procurement Services issued a Wind Power Development RFI in December 2016 – we received 17 responses – reflective of a strong interest. The intention is to utilize this information to move forward with issuing a future RFP for wind power (or other carbon-free) electricity generation. This is just the beginning of a long term effort.
- CSU has been invited to participate in Earth Day Texas at Texas A&M University. If you are interested in heading to Texas for Earth Day – contact Carol or Tonie for more information.
- The CSU Office of the VP for Diversity is seeking presenters for a High School student Diversity Conference and is looking for presenters on diversity and leadership. If you are interested, please contact Carol for more information.

Tony Rappe:

- A request for financial assistance has been submitted to Arrow to help fund a proposed course on E-waste.

Stacey Baumgarn:

- Facilities Management, EHS and the Vice President for Research have partnered to encourage participation at CSU in the [2017 North American Laboratory Freezer Challenge](#). If you or someone you know has an ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezer – please encourage them to sign-up via the link provided here or, contact Stacey: Stacey.Baumgarn@colostate.edu

Sheela Backen:

- Will soon be making appointments with various Building Proctors – to discuss composting. Initially (in select buildings) the Integrated Solid Waste team will be collecting paper-towel waste in restrooms and food scraps in breakrooms. Signage and educational outreach in development.

Peter Backlund:

- Feb. 8th – Managing the Planet, Avo's – 5-6:30 pm. "[Are We Loving Nature to Death?](#)"
- SoGES is (co-)sponsoring several upcoming symposia:
 - March: (along with the Water Center) a US-Mexico cross-border water issues
 - March: Overconsumption and the Apparel industry
 - April 24th-25th: Environmental Justice Symposium (see above)

Ann Bohm-Small:

- Human Rights Film Festival returns for a second year at CSU – April 14th-21st (see above)

Tim Broderick:

- RecycleMania is coming! Official launch is February 5th. Good time to clean-out your office!
- The Dining Centers are now providing organic hand fruits.
- All student Resident Hall rooms are now provided brown paper bags as “liners” for their recycle bins – this initiative will significantly reduce contamination from plastic bags in our recycling collection. This change is a result of an EcoLeader pilot project – nice work!

Jocelyn Hittle:

- In September a National Western Sustainability forum was hosted at the Powerhouse – where CSU's vision for our role was refined. A small amount of funding is in place for a core team focused on energy, water, and waste research – this topic list (and the funding) may expand in the future. An RFQ to faculty will be issued later this year – to work with the City and County of Denver on the National Western Redevelopment and sustainability.

John Fitch:

- The Morgan Library is discussing idea for exhibits in the Library during Earth Week. The library can be a central place and model for social sustainability and collaborative learning. Ideas may include: environmental impacts from food waste, composting education, etc. The library Sustainability Committee is exploring ideas to improve energy efficiency, educate Library staff and users, etc. The Library wants participation and involvement from the students. John also offered tours to showcase the features of his sustainable home in Redstone Canyon.

Tonie Miyamoto:

- A contract with [zipbike](#) was signed over winter break. ASCU funded 50% and HDS funded 50% to add this service. Eight new zipbike stations will likely appear on campus in March. zipbike is a partnership between [zipcar](#) and [Zagster](#) (Zagster is the bike-share program adopted by the City of Fort Collins). One membership gives a user access to zipcar, zipbike and Zagster! This expansion will bring a total of ten bike share stations to campus (8 zipbike and 2 Zagster stations) – 5 will be near Residence Halls and 5 will be around the academic side of campus.