

Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Noon-1pm

Century A Room, EMU

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Peg Gearhart (Chair) – Oregon Humanities Center
- Alan Dickman – Environmental Studies
- Christian Pich – Neuroscience
- Fred Tepfer – Campus Planning and Real Estate
- Ellen Inagmells – Student
- Doug Brooke – Environmental Health and Safety (Ex Officio)
- Christine Thompson – Campus Planning and Real Estate (Ex Officio)
- Steve Mital – Office of Sustainability (Ex Officio)
- Louisa de Heer – Student Sustainability Center (Ex Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT

- Meg Mattsen – Office of Stewardship
- Jennifer Ellis – Finance
- Nathan Howard – Student
- Sophie Luthin – Student
- Heather Brinton – Law
- Ramah Leith – Health Center

GUESTS

- Tom Driscoll – University Housing
- Bob Beals – University Athletics

DECISIONS TAKEN

- The March meeting minutes were approved.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

UPDATE ON RECENT EFFORTS TO REDUCE WASTE IN ATHLETICS AND HOUSING

Bob Beals from Athletics and Tom Driscoll from University Housing presented on sustainability initiatives and waste management reduction in their departments.

Athletics (Bob Beals)

- On-going collection and composting of yard waste.

- Began a new zero-waste initiative for home football game tailgating events at Moshofsky Center. Successfully composted or recycled 92% of the event waste. Plan on expanding it to other suites in the stadium.
- Working with Food for Lane County to donate food after large sporting events and practices during the football season.
- Improved collection of beverage containers on the way into the stadium by separating liquids from recyclable containers.
- Began working with Oregon Bottling and Recycling Co-op (OBRC) and student groups to collect and separate recyclable containers in the parking lots. Acted as a fundraiser for the Climate Justice League in 2011.
- Hayward Field is planning for the 2012 Olympic Track Trials to be a zero-waste event and has started a two-container system for trash and recycling.
- Matthew Knight Arena has applied for a grant from Lane County to set up recycling container systems next year that will be based on the successful Portland Rose Garden system.

Dining (Tom Driscoll)

- The dining halls are pushing towards using reusable materials and two halls currently use china and silverware. The next best option, which works well for students on the go, is a reusable basket that can be taken out of the dining hall but is returned, washed, and put back into circulation.
- Currently purchase beverage cups without the plastic lining that are compostable.
- There are incentives for bringing your own coffee cup such as a punch card system (buy 9 and get the 10th one free).
- Cooking oil (rice oil) is collected and turned into biodiesel, which is sold to SeSequential.
- Food for Lane County comes to the kitchens everyday and picks up leftover food. Students can donate their meal plan points towards the end of the year and Dining Services uses that to buy food to donate to Food for Lane County.
- Some areas for improvement: Still need to work on finding compostable beverage lids, straws and silverware that are both accepted by the composting company and affordable. Garbage liners are compostable but very expensive so not a good option. Plastic gloves don't seem to come in compostable options at this time.
- The ultimate goal is zero-landfill dining facilities. The department wants to start thinking about waste management in a larger picture instead of thinking about recycling, composting, and landfilling separately.

UPDATE ON THE CLIMATE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S REVAMP THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CAMPAIGN

Ellen Ingamells presented an update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) ballot initiative, which proposed that the CAP should include tangible action language. The initiative passed with 86.7% of the vote. Ellen asked the committee for ideas on how to move forward, given broad student support. They would like to find a person or organization to revamp the plan and include the new language and goals. Committee members suggested that this item be added to the next meeting agenda so that participants can research their suggestions. Ellen said she would send the addendum language and three example initiatives included in the ballot measure, which are being implemented at OSU.

INFOSHARE

Peg asked for the committee's reflections on the ECO-Challenge. Participants enjoyed Steve's email reminders and said they were inspirational and fun. Steve said there were 190 participants this year, down from 220 participants last year. Next year's goal is 1,000 participants and the Office of Sustainability is going to expand upon promotion with more outreach outside of the university. The relationship building process takes time to create an established community event. Some promotion suggestions included incentives or hooks to excite participants, working with the 4J school district and the City of Eugene, and using social networking techniques similar to the Pac12 Well-U Challenge

FUTURE AGENDA ISSUES

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 1 at 12pm in the EMU Rogue River Room.