

Sustainability Council minutes, November 15, 2013

Attendance: Ray Stoupa, Hannah Mullally, Michael Cherney, Charlene Stender, Jessica Heller, Margo Minnich, Rich Jehlik, John Baxter, Wes Walling, Cassara Carroll, Bill Hamilton, Peter Maas, Joe Zaborowski, Amy Helms, Ed DuPree, Jessica Sheldon

To discuss:

- FM is installing a 55" monitor behind the glass in the Admissions Office at the end of the angled glass near the staircase. We plan on displaying energy data for the facility (Harper) with graphics, etc. There will certainly be space for additional information from Sustainability Council. What should we include?
 - Energy usage comparability charts – CU utilization per sq.ft.(watts/amps/volts) vs. residential or education industry utilization per sq.ft.
 - Promote/advertise Tree Campus USA event
 - CU campus solar and wind power production statistics
 - Sustainability council events
 - Organize a group accountable for identifying additional ideas
- St. Francis Pledge: where do we go from here? Group discussion.
 - Departments taking pledge.
 - Publicizing pledge counts by division/department.
 - Promote the St. Francis pledge opportunity on the Admissions monitor
 - Develop opportunities for individuals/groups to act upon their pledge. Leverage the St. Francis pledge to encourage participation at/in Sustainability events, ie. "If you accepted the St. Francis sustainability pledge, please consider attending . . . "
- Discussion of scout projects/badges. Tim Norton is interested in working on these. Group discussion.
 - The IHRG Committee will send a list of potential projects to Ray Stoupa. Ray will organize future project alignment with the MidAmerica Council BSA once the list is received, reviewed and approved by the appropriate CU authorities.
 - Participation in CU's Energy Camp
- Discussion of sustainability of the membership – how to find and keep new members.
 - Identify faculty/staff/group/area/division energy accountability ideas. Get approval/sponsorship of accountabilities from CU executive leaders. Distribute energy utilization expectations.
 - Promote simple sustainability related projects, ie. "Click It Off" (turn lights off campaign)
 - Continue to request Standing Committee status from the President's Office
 - Request a funding/mandate carve out for sustainability activities during next budget process. Present/compute ROI on allocated budget dollars – electricity savings, steam heating savings, carbon footprint savings, etc.
- From September's minutes: "The group discusses what the focus of the Council should be this school year. Transportation and education/outreach were thought to be of the most

importance. Discussion followed on how to use St. Francis Day festivities as a springboard. Ideas included sending emails to others to encourage them to take the pledge, inviting others to sustainability council meetings, etc. Another idea is to have thematic meetings to get small projects accomplished.” **Need to discuss what to do/where to go from here.** (Group discussion) *more information on following page, with a list of what is in the climate action plan*

- The group reviewed the Climate Action Plan next steps list. Discussion focused on generating a Sustainability 101 Handbook for all faculty and staff; not just new hires. The handbook would identify individual, group, area and/or division accountabilities formally approved by Creighton executive leadership. Basically, a list of employee “resource stewardship” activities/expectations.
- Need to identify a top 10 prioritized sustainability projects/activities list to focus the committee’s attention on specific issues. Helps avoid the “shiny object” attention distractions.
- Things others want to bring up
 - Begin to assign project champions and/or work groups to projects to encourage active participation.
 - Proposal to construct portable signage to indicate when the campus bike shop is open for business.
 - Request to include one or two annual field trips on the Sustainability Committee agenda to promote awareness. Possible ideas include:
 - Site specific energy utilization
 - CU energy generation projects/research
 - CU recycling activities
 - Sodexo packaging review

Announcements:

- Mary Duda, Barbara Dilly, Richard Miller, and Haley Warren attended a webinar from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change regarding sustainability and mission. The presentation sparked some ideas; we’ll be taking a closer look at the ties between sustainability and mission in future. (This is basically just an announcement)
- The Climate Walk was postponed until the spring due to planning issues.
- Recyclemania starts in January. The Recycling Advisory Committee will be meeting beforehand and during.

Upcoming events:

- OXFAM Hunger Banquet presented in conjunction with CSU, Peace and Justice Co-op, CCSJ, and others. November 17th (6:30pm).
- Next meeting: January 17, 2014 in Eppley 119. New location. **December meeting is cancelled.**
- Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting November 19 at 1:30 in Harper 3026. We’ll be discussing Recyclemania. All are welcome.

Next steps from the Climate Action Plan:

EDUCATION:OUTREACH:

- Develop an on-line sustainability pledge to be rolled out in August 2013
- Increase the signage around campus to encourage conservation and educate about energy savings (e.g. plug load management)
- Identify programs to target harder to reach sectors of the Creighton community such as off-campus housing
- Identify opportunities to utilize engage.creighton.edu to gather ideas and input from the Creighton community
- Sustainability 101 Handbook for faculty and staff new hires
- Incorporate into new staff/faculty orientation
- Ongoing sustainability training for all faculty and staff – determine frequency and develop a training schedule
- Communication strategy for sustainability

TRANSPORTATION

- Evaluate current shuttle routes and need for additional routes, larger vehicles etc.
- Further evaluate bicycle commuting options
- Work with Campus Safety to get campus bike fleet/bike library implemented on campus (bikes already owned)
- Develop communications campaign to educate Creighton community about existing programs (shuttle service, floater vehicle, zip cars, GPS shuttle tracking, etc.)
- Cost/benefit analysis for CNG and/or electric vehicle fueling station(s) on campus: where could we use these sorts of vehicles?
- Take steps to become a [Bike Friendly University](#)
- Evaluate options to reduce parking on campus:
 - Examine parking fee structure to incentivize alternative commuting
 - Create a “sustainability credits” program where faculty/staff can receive points for taking alternative transportation to work (biking/walking, bus, carpool) to be exchanged for subsidized bus passes, healthy dining dollars, etc.
- Dedicated motorcycle parking
- Incentivize campus community to drive more sustainable vehicles to campus
- Develop the Virtual Student Concierge to provide students a single point of access to information and potentially support the reduction of student commuting
- Develop policy for new vehicle purchases that considers more efficient options as well as electric or CNG vehicles where applicable
- Create outreach campaign for faculty and staff to encourage reduced use of fleet vehicles as a means to minimize non-essential trips