

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016

9:00am Facilities Conference Room 2nd Floor

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Today was Mimi's last day working at Eastern. All were welcomed to stop by the ISE at noon for an ice cream farewell.
2. **Recycling/Waste Updates:**
 - Dining Services:** Jeff Kwolek is researching options to potentially bring composting into Eastern's food waste disposal process. Jeff also suggested that there may be consideration of bringing trays back to Hurley; Jeff has been working to keep Hurley tray-less. (Since going tray-less last year, food waste at Hurley has gone down and the students' wait in line for food has shortened.) In related discussion, it was suggested to hold another food-waste weighing at Hurley in the Fall to educate incoming students about mindful eating decisions.
Next Steps: Jeff and Lynn to talk on re-connecting with Dining Services on the importance of tray-less dining.
 - **Waste/recycling dumpster audits – recent data:** ISE intern Zac updated the previous data records to include formulas and graphs for easy analysis. Paul posed the idea of tracking the size—in volume of cubic feet—of the dumpsters to check if any upsizing or downsizing is possible. It was also suggested to track how many times per week Willi-Waste trucks empty the dumpsters, and whether they should come more or less frequently.
 - **Recycling bins for residence halls (white receptacles from dining services):** Jeff reported that Dining Services currently produces 3-5 buckets per week. ISE is planning to distribute buckets to students during Move-In.
 - **Check in on Lexan Project:** Shellena says installation is in-progress and estimates it will be done in time for the Fall semester.
 - **Check in on progress of Willi Waste contract:** Renee has scheduled time with Willi-Waste to discuss waste-weighing days to be held intermittently throughout different times of the year.
 - **Initiating waste audits of office buildings:** Shellena did some talking with office faculty/staff. Many faculty/staff were unaware of the recent recycling initiative. A common sentiment was that there needs to be more aggressive messaging for the initiative to really be successful. It was suggested to send out the recycling email (including the office recycling video) to faculty and staff as soon as possible. Another suggestion was to hold a contest for faculty and staff to incentivize office recycling.
Next Steps: Potentially start ISE interns on office building waste audits.

- Placement of additional stickers in kitchenette areas: In Shellena's investigation, it was also discovered that people aren't really reading the sticker; they assume it's there to just reinforce recycling without realizing that it explains the 'new' rules (ex., about what to recycle, rinsing). Another issue is that recycling bins, particularly after emptying, are often placed with the sticker obscured, facing toward the wall. A suggested fix is to post the stickers at eye-level; perhaps starting with magnetic Lexans on refrigerator doors. Jeff said he would give approval to putting up eye-level signage in the Food Court. Jeff also posed the idea of color-coding recycling vs. trash bins in the dining areas. The main concern for such fixes is determining who would cover their costs.

Next Steps: Laura and Zac to tour the Food Court for preliminary planning of signage placement.

- Move out waste data: ISE intern Weronika compared Move Out data between 2015 and 2016 and found 2016 had a significant, unexpected drop in recycled and donated items. She suggested cutting the number of days for collecting donations, noting that not many items were donated in the first two days. In looking at some of the difficulties had in running the collections, it was clear that better collaboration and coordination with housing staff and RAs was needed.

A related suggestion was to also have waste audits during Move In. Noah, one of Paul's students, did a visual audit of last Move In, and found there was an issue in distribution and/or messaging: some dumpsters were overflowing, whereas other dumpsters were under-filled. It was suggested to do a greater push for recycling during Move-in when students often dispose of cardboard packaging they had used to carry their items in. One idea was to collect and store this packaging and make it available for students to use during Move Out.

Moving forward, ISE is working to educate incoming students about campus recycling. Lauren Polansky, a SOAR counselor, has added a recycling skit to freshman orientation. A key goal is to someday include sustainability/recycling into RA training so that RAs can pass down that knowledge to their residents.

3. Resilience planning:

- Sharing Second Nature Resilience Commitment information: ISE reported back on Resilience Roundtable held at Avery Point on 6/10. Now that Eastern has signed onto Second Nature's Climate Commitment, an internal framework needs to be established so progress can be made on the commitment.

- Sharing Eric's Resilience presentation: Eric briefly went over the presentation he gave at the roundtable. He is working with various campus departments to make playbooks—written protocols for handling emergencies (such as extreme weather). One idea was to write these playbooks in collaboration with the off-campus community. Another idea was to merge emergency planning with the master plan and strategic plan, to make it a key consideration during the design phase of new buildings.

Next Steps: ISE to send out resilience PowerPoint.

4. **Sustainability brochure update:** Laura, Weronica, and Mimi have been working with University Relations on the design; it should be ready for the Fall semester.
5. **Upcoming Sustainability Events:** ISE is doing sustainability tours of other CT campuses; GCC members are welcome to attend any of these tours. (Laura Miller at millerlau@easternct.edu will send out dates as they are scheduled)

-Campus Sustainability Week: October 3rd – 7th, 2016, on campuses all over CT
Be a part of the second annual Campus Sustainability Week! The 2015 event included 20+ sustainability events at five CT campuses! Students, Faculty, and staff participated in everything from garden cleanups to sustainable yoga and a vegan potluck. For more information contact Laura Miller at MillerLau@easternct.edu

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 27th at 9:00am Student Center 217.

Attendees:

Emma Avery - *ISE*

Graham Bennedict - *ISE*

Mimi Cedrone - *ISE*

Eric Germain – *Environmental Health & Safety*

Cindy Hodis – *Fiscal Affairs*

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur - *ISE*

Weronika Lewkowicz - *ISE*

Laura Miller - *ISE*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science*

Shellena Pitterson - *Facilities*

Lynn Stoddard -*ISE*

Zac Stygar - *ISE*

Paul Torcellini – *Environmental Earth Science*