

**Eastern CT State University**  
**Green Campus Committee Meeting Minutes 3/24/15**

People present:

- Renee Keech, Interim Director of Facilities
- Rachel Dern, EES Student, Environmental Club President
- Lynn Stoddard, Director of ISE, and Green Campus Committee Chair
- Connor Dunleavy, ISE Intern
- Shellena Pitterson, Drafting
- Cindy Hodis, Purchasing
- Jason Coombs, Director Food Services
- Paul Torcellini, EES Endowed Chair
- Eric Germaine, Environmental Health and Safety
- Laura Miller, Energy Technical Specialist
- Lourdes Ardel, Human Resources

**Solarize U Updates**

– After the last Green Campus Committee meeting ISE designed an email flier to increase simplicity in those interested in signing up for the program. Thanks to those who signed on from our committee, we now have 31 sign-ups.

- Overview of events:

- Tomorrow, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Home Energy Solutions workshop 12-1 in the Student Center, room 217. This is a state run program known as Home Energy Solutions that provides energy assessments for the home. This type of program is also offered in other states.
- April 7th Drop By Session with Solarize U - faculty and staff who already have solar will be available for questions from 12.30-1:30 pm. Student Center 117.
- April 15th On the Home Front community TV interview on Solarize Eastern. The show should air on TV that evening.
- Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Solar Home Tour – Stop by Katherine Lynch’s home in Chaplin CT to ask questions about her installation. Click [HERE](#) to register for the Solar Home Tour.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day event, tabling for Solarize U (Laura will try to set this up).
- Solar lease program special offer expires March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Earth Day** – Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

- Rachel Dern shared the list of events that the Environmental Club is organizing (see attachment).
- The Environmental Club will have Earth Day t-shirts as a giveaway or at a cost. All money raised will go to Grow Windham.
- Most events are on the 22nd of April. The group shared ideas for how to show the public the correct way to carry out single stream recycling. The group suggested using actual trash to show how it can be sorted better.
- Renee visited dorms and it appeared that not very many students are recycling. In the future the recycling rooms may be re-opened to encourage recycling. At the beginning of the year the students should be given one sheet that tells them what can and can't be recycled.
- Lynn is going to reach out to Victoria from Willi Waste to see if there is something that can be utilized to label campus recycling containers prior to Earth Day.

### **Trayless Dining**

- Jason Coombs met with the student Lauren who has been working on trayless dining. On Earth Day Hurley Dining Hall will have a voluntary trayless day.
- Eric suggested just going trayless rather than having voluntary trayless, with marketing with facts such as how much water and food waste is reduced.
- Engaging students and ensuring it is student driven will be a great collaborative effort. The group suggested having a sign-up sheet or form for students to sign to show their support for trayless dining.
- Lynn suggested students might want to write an article for the Campus Lantern about the benefits of going tray less. Connor said he would be interested in doing this.
- If there are any other thoughts about Earth Day events, please share these ideas with the committee.
- Paul would like to volunteer some of his chickens for the Earth Day. Also Paul's wife is knowledgeable about organic hygiene including developing organic lip balm, and would share information as needed. The group agreed we can also direct people to buy organic items from CVS, the Willimantic Food Co-op and other locations.
- One of the Earth Day events will be a Jeopardy game. The group suggested adding in questions about what can and can't be recycled.
- It was also suggested that Solarize U should have a table at the Earth Day event. Laura will try to arrange this.
- There is a national Earth Day Network that contacted Lynn where anyone can register actions and events for Earth Day online. Lynn will forward this to Rachel so we can also have these events linked to a national effort.
- It was suggested that Rachel speak to Nick Messina about adding Earth Day event info to the monitors around campus and that she set up a meeting with Ed Osborn to help with promoting this event.

### **Waste and recycling**

- The virtual reuse network that is currently being piloted between universities in Connecticut is currently running at Wesleyan. At this point Eastern will not be getting involved due to surplus rules and an already existing system through DAS.
- Renee will be removing old beds and furniture from Burr in May and installing new beds in dormitories in June. Probably about 200 mattresses will be recycled. Also there will be desks, desk chairs, chest of drawers, wardrobes, and bed frames that the committee would like to find a reuse for.
- Cindy stated bed frames can be given to nonprofits, but they cannot be sold, and they can also be recycled.
- The group suggested three ideas for the surplus furniture: calling Salvation Army to collect them; putting them into the DAS on-line surplus site and see if there are any takers; asking WAIM if they can use them.
- Cindy will check on the DAS posting requirements. Lynn will send the link to Cindy and Renee.
- Terry O'Brien who works in Fiscal Affairs would be able to tell us what the rules are regarding surplus, reuse, etc.

- A few members of the committee met with Willi Waste to discuss how to improve our recycling rate. As a result of the meeting, Willi Waste may be able to help create labels for the inside recycling bins and outside dumpsters and containers. The group suggested there should also be a campaign for the non-recycling bins. We need to check further with Willi Waste on the recycling of shredded paper.
- Rachel would like the statistic on the cost savings from recycling versus disposal.
- The group discussed the hydration station and the use of a visual example to show how many plastic bottles are avoided when using the hydration station instead.
- Renee is going to be starting a new master plan for the campus and wants to tie in the green initiatives. Paul will send along examples of this done at other campuses.
- Move Out waste is moving ahead. Josh is working on a slogan and t shirts for the 2 week period.
- Catering and Farm to School event: Jason was contacted by Sally from Grow Windham who requested sustainable menu options for their 3/20/15 Farm to School conference. Jason was able to have 95% of the menu be from locally sourced produce. According to Jason a lot of what is already offered by Chartwells is sustainable, e.g. in-house potato chips, local greenhouse greens, local breads, co-op items, Bagel One, apple cider from Horse Listener Farm, and locally roasted coffee. The price was double to triple the cost of a typical event. The event also used Hosmer soda, UCONN ice cream for root beer floats, fair trade coffee that gives back to farmers in Costa Rica, and featured a sandwich buffet, including egg salad, hummus wraps, and the labeling of the food.

**Campus Sustainability Conference** – Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 8:50am – 3:30pm, BTR.

- Please see link [HERE](#) to the conference agenda (full detailed agenda TBD shortly)
- Click [HERE](#) for registration for the event.
- The event will be hosting 15 exhibitors from the sustainability and energy field, guest speakers Timothy Carter, current President of Second Nature (ACUPCC), and DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee.
- FREE to attend, FREE Breakfast, FREE lunch!

**Next meeting:** Join us at the Campus Sustainability Conference, Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> Student Center BTR. See [HERE](#) for agenda and registration. (No formal meeting from 9:30-10:30 due to conference).