

## Meeting Minutes

### Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:00am Student Center 217

#### 1. Welcome and introductions:

- a. Introduction of ISE's 5 new interns, and some general updates. Sales of the Eastern sustainability logo T-shirts were good, so the bookstore is going to sell Eastern sustainability logo water bottles. Laura Miller, Mimi Cedrone, and ISE intern Weronika met with Kevin Paquin of University Relations to discuss the creation of a Sustainability at Eastern Fact Booklet. This booklet, while helpful in promoting general sustainability education on campus, could also have a use in marketing to prospective Eastern students.
- b. ISE staff attended the Green Circle Sustainability Awards in Hartford on 5/23, hosted by CT DEEP and the Hartford Business Journal. Eastern won an award for the work of the Green Campus Committee. The CT Technical High School System was also recognized for its energy- and money-saving lighting retrofits. The retrofits were implemented as a result of the ISE's help in benchmarking and analyzing the schools' energy use.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE will forward any press released in relation to the awards.*

#### 2. Recycling Updates:

- a. 100 mattresses have been sent from storage to the Mattress Recycling Council. In the upcoming months Nancy Harper's crew will work on removing soiled mattresses from the dorms.
- b. Renee Keech is currently working with Willi-Waste to revise Eastern's contract, with the new one to be instated by 7/1. Revisions to encompass number and type of garbage and recycling receptacles on campus.
  - i. Renee has met with custodians to better understand the campus recycling process. Custodians reported they don't really use the wheeled tote bins when taking indoor recycling to outdoor dumpsters. Custodians voiced concerns about recycling dumpster heights in concern of lid accessibility;—the new recycling dumpsters can be around 4 feet tall or shorter, mitigating this issue.  
**Next Steps:** *Renee to schedule waste-weighing days with Willi-Waste; Lynn to send recommended dates to Renee.*
- c. **New intern for waste audits:** ISE's new interns will continue the audits started by ISE alumni.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE to send existing waste data to Renee.*
- d. **Check in on Lexan Project:** This is the installation of plastic plates on the inner sides of dorm suite doors to display the recycling sticker.  
**Next Steps:** *Shellena Pitterson to check in with Matt on project status.*
- e. **Outreach email for faculty and staff:** Concern remains about status of office recycling, with the sense that more education could be needed about campus recycling. Suggestion posed to have custodians survey levels of contamination of recycling bins in office/staff

buildings. Discussion had about visibility of recycling sticker, with suggestions to place it in more eye-level locations. Suggestion to hold off on staff recycling email until new dumpsters are installed as a means to minimize confusion.

**Next Steps:** *Renee to send out informational email about campus recycling to faculty and staff after new dumpsters installed; email to include the office recycling video.*

**Next Steps:** *Shallena to look at kitchenette spaces and recommend where and how to place recycling stickers for greatest visibility.*

- f. Recycling bins for residence halls (white receptacles repurposed from dining services):** ISE intern Zachary is working with Jeff Kwolek from Dining Services and Josh Sumrell from Housing & Residential Life to create an implementation plan, with a starting focus on incoming freshman. Lauren Polansky with SOAR has shown interest in the project. Consideration given to adding information about on-campus recycling to orientation messaging. Suggestion given to have people on-site during move-in days to hand out the receptacles to incoming students.

**Next Steps:** *ISE to ask Angela Bazin from Housing what the language is in the Housing Contract in regards to students bringing their own recycling bins.*

**Next Steps:** *Shellena to give Zachary details on the number of dorm rooms on campus and per building. Zachary to ask Angela which buildings house which grade levels.*

### **3. Transportation update:**

- a. Sent out survey results and commuter CT Rides information:** The results showed that a main concern for commuters is the level of convenience while traveling. Further education about greener commuting options should be pursued and promoted.
- i. Suggestion raised to bring up sustainable commuting at next University Meeting. Discussion broadened to propose giving a brief update on general Eastern sustainability at a future University Meeting as a platform to reach out to a wider campus audience. Suggestions included showing the staff recycling video and/or having a small handout available on a table for people to grab in passing.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE interns to look at transportation survey data again and determine nodes for potential EZStreet vanpools that could be established. Prepare for more outreach on this regarding vanpool benefits and potential.*
- b. Eric Germain talked to campus police about enforcing the green preferred parking spots.** Suggestion raised to add more green parking—a feature eligible to earn LEED points—to new future buildings.
- i. Campus police said if we can provide a standard definition for low-emissions vehicles, then enforcement could be possible in the form of a ‘green’ permit.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE students to research low-emissions vehicle to check feasibility of a standard definition.*
  - ii. Carpooling is difficult to prove and thus unrealistic to enforce in hypothetical carpool parking. If vanpool programs, which help give groups of commuters a van to carpool in, were used, it would make preferred parking for carpools more viable to enforce.

4. **Environmental purchasing policy:** ISE intern Tara is researching policies used by other universities as a basis for drafting a stronger policy for Eastern.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE intern Tara Brooks to present status of developing draft environmental purchasing policy at next meeting.*
  
5. **AASHE STARS Award Application – Optimizing Waste at Eastern:** Laura submitted the application on Tuesday 5/24.
  
6. **Upcoming Sustainability Events: CT Alliance for Campus Sustainability Summer Roundtable**
  - **Time and Place:** June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at CIRCA UConn Avery Point, Groton, CT
  
  - a. The theme of this roundtable will be Resilience. Join us for discussion and idea sharing with your peers from campuses all over Connecticut. All are welcome, no matter what stage of planning you are in! Discussion should bolster the bridging together of resilience efforts of towns and campuses. To Register, visit:  
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eclitv5kbb0b2300&seq=&c=&ch>
  
  - b. Eric will speak on Eastern’s participation in a Campus Resilience Enhancement System CARES, a non-financial grant on resiliency to help campuses develop plans to respond to any type of disaster or disturbance that disrupts the campus operations. He attended training in Virginia about the scope of consequences to be faced after a natural disaster has struck. He is now working with many departments on campus to write ‘playbooks,’ like a set of response protocols that can be used in the case of campus disruptions.  
**Next Steps:** *ISE to share key discussion points from 6/10 Roundtable at next GCC meeting, including Eric making his presentation to GCC.*

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am Student Center 217.

Attendees

Lynn Stoddard – Committee Chair, *ISE*  
 Steve Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science*  
 Eric Germain – *Environmental Health & Safety*  
 Renee Keech – *Facilities Management & Planning*  
 Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*  
 Cindy Hodis – *Fiscal Affairs*  
 Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*  
 Graham Benedict – *ISE intern*  
 Tara Brooks – *ISE intern*  
 Mimi Cedrone - *ISE*  
 Leticia Denoya – *ISE intern*  
 Alex Fazzino – *ISE intern*  
 Jenna Lafleur - *ISE*  
 Weronika Lewkowicz – *ISE intern*  
 Zachary Stygar – *ISE intern*