

Green Campus Committee Meeting Minutes 5/27/14

People present:

- Mary Ragno, Health and Physical Education,
- Tyler Stebbins, ISE Summer intern
- Lynn Stoddard, Director ISE, and Green Campus Committee Chair
- Eric Germain, Environmental Health and Safety
- Mike Desjarlais, HVAC
- Renee Keech, Architect
- Steve Nathan, EES
- Niti Pandey, Business
- Trevor Warbin, ISE Summer Intern
- James Boyle, Grown Windham
- Ricardo, Grow Windham
- Paul Torcellini, EES
- Laura Worthington, Energy Technical Specialist, ISE
- Kyle Ellsworth, ISE summer intern

Meeting called to order 10:00am

Agenda:

1. Updates
2. Discussion
3. Sustainable Research Study
4. Other Campus Actions
5. Concluding remarks

Attendee introductions followed by Lynn opening up discussion including updates from ISE, and what has been happening as far as campus sustainability goes at Eastern for the past year. Also asked question of what the committee would like to see in the future.

1. Updates

- The Institute for Sustainable Energy hosted a successful statewide sustainability conference on Friday April 25th. This conference brought together over 130 people including faculty, staff and students from around the state, for presentations, workshops, and panels. This conference announced the CT Alliance for Campus Sustainability, Solarize U, and Second Nature's Alliance for Resilient Campuses. For more information see the detailed descriptions below.
- Second Nature David Hales has initiated the Alliance for Resilient Campuses of which Eastern has signed on to be and is one of the founding signatories. For more information about this see the link included here - <http://secondnature.org/programs/resilience/alliance>
- UCONN at Avery Point has opened a Climate Institute known as the Institute for Community Resiliency and Climate Adaptation. For more information see this link <http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/cwp/view.asp?Q=538668&A=4010>

- Solarize U, a program established by CT's green bank Connecticut's Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) was released at the April 25th Connecticut Campus Sustainability Conference. Eastern, UCONN and Yale have signed on to take the challenge which involves the campuses actively promoting solarize Connecticut to its faculty and staff who are CT residents. For more information see here: <http://solarizect.com/solarize-u-announced/>
- Yale's Office of Sustainability and the Institute for Sustainable Energy announced the CT Alliance for Campus Sustainability at the April 25th conference. This is the state's first comprehensive group open to all higher education institutions and is geared towards getting people on different campuses to connect with one another. For more information see here: http://www.easternct.edu/mt-static/press_releases/2014/04/connecticut-campus-connect-at-statewide-sustainability-conference.html

2. Discussion

- James Boyle: Garden is going into its second summer growing season. The program where the high school students helped with planting and harvesting on Friday afternoons has stopped early due to lack of funding. ISE has offered to help with watering and general maintenance throughout the weekdays.
- Mary: James has offered tremendous leadership during the growing season. Would like to see Eastern continue to use the garden to integrate learning. At one point those involved with the garden were considering an agriculture enterprise, where a crop of pumpkins could be grown and sold, but this option was not explored further.
- Overall people want the garden to stay around and suggest the Center for Community Engagement can be more involved, and possibly finding out teaching faculty who way want to utilize the garden in their courses is the way to go. Laura is going to contact Ross Koning in Biology to ask some questions.
- Needs for the Garden:
 - Watering (ISE)
 - Harvesting (Grow Windham & ISE)
 - Would like to involve more Eastern Students, or an Eastern Club to get involved with the garden
 - Need a point person on Campus, for now Laura at ISE volunteered
 - Need a garden coordinator
 - ISE can work as a vessel to introduce new students
 - Mike asked about if the Grown Windham people had any connections to financial connections to local business/UCONN Gardens/Green Houses
 - James is also working to get composting in Hurley Hall, the garden does have composting.
 - * High School students that had been involved also ran farmers market stand
 - Paul: Pallates used for the composting at the garden can be very toxic, and should therefore not come into contact with plants used for food.
 - * Rain barrel opportunities for the ISE house to collect water for the garden are an opportunity. Renee mentioned that she may know a source for for rain barrels.

3. Sustainable Behavior Research Study:

- Niti Pandey and James Diller (Psychology) are conducting a research study about behavior change and sustainability. They will be utilizing the energy dashboard to monitor how energy is being used in the targeted buildings. The idea is to change people's behavior using messaging via email.

4. Other campus actions:

- Steve – Residence Halls will be having environmentally themed housing. Need to email Lamar Coleman to ask if he would like to attend future meetings.

- Mike – The campus has been working on re-commissioning the campus and is currently in phase 6 of energy savings measures. This has included having the energy usage and savings opportunities evaluated as well as understanding potential rebate programs.

* Phase 6 is mainly concerned with the heating plant on campus. Currently low rise is using wireless remotes to control energy use, and this is a successful application that could be used in other buildings.

- Lynn – Raising visibility of sustainability on campus is a goal for this year. Asked if we know who monitors the amount of recycling on campus?

- Niti – Green virtual tour as a possibility, could work with Ed Osborn's staff to make a green campus map become a reality.

- Would also be a great idea to have residence hall welcoming gifts to include an LED bulb, Renee mentioned she might be able to look into this.

5. Concluding remarks:

- The committee will convene again on Tuesday June 24th at 11am.

- Steve – asked if the committee were interested in the value of developing a sustainability plan for the campus. Need to look over Eastern's strategic plan to see how sustainability goals may align.

- Paul – asked what we want our campus to look like in 15 years. This could be a starting point to creating goals we want to achieve over time that can be incorporated into a plan.

Before the next meeting time permitting committee members can;

- Look over Eastern's climate action plan <http://rs.acupcc.org/cap/378/>
- Look over Eastern's AASHE submission and perform a gap analysis of what we need to do in each area to become/maintain our silver status.
- Develop some goals that we have for the university related to sustainability.

Meeting ended at 12:04am. Meeting Minutes submitted respectfully by Laura Worthington