

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 25th at 9:00am Student Center 217.

1. Welcome and introductions

- 2. Sustainable Eastern Brochures:** The ISE worked with University Relations to publish a brochure to promote Eastern's sustainability. With layout and design done by Kevin Paquin, the ISE brought in some of the 1000+ copies ready to be distributed. The committee brainstormed possible distribution venues: Public Safety, Admissions, Human Resources, Hurley Hall, the Bookstore, the Environmental Earth Science department, and during Open House and Admitted Students' Day. Several attendees grabbed copies to share with their respective departments.

- 3. Food Updates – Hurley Food Donation Project:** Jeff Kwolek has worked with ISE intern Zac Stygar and the CCE to set up a food recovery system for Hurley Hall and the Food Court. On Mondays and Thursdays, leftovers will be delivered to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. The food will be transported in reusable hotel pans, with empty pans being exchanged back to Eastern on delivery days. The weight and number of portions of food delivered will be recorded, and the money saved by diverting the leftovers from the trash will also be calculated. Also, next year Jeff plans to introduce reusable To-Go boxes at Hurley to reduce waste creation, considering that a third of all students use To-Go boxes. In the meantime, Hurley has turned away from Styrofoam and gone back to using pressed-paper To-Go boxes.

- Quantum Biopower update, visit to facility: Quantum Biopower is an anaerobic digestion—which turns food waste into biogas fuel—facility set to open in Southington, CT. Eastern is interested in diverting its pre- and post-consumer food waste to Quantum, with the caveat that we need to find a way to transport our food waste to Quantum. UConn is in talks with Willi-Waste to see if they would haul their food waste to Quantum. Jeff plans to work with facilities to join these negotiations with Willi-Waste on Eastern's behalf.

Also, Quantum has planned a facilities tour for 8 people maximum in the first week of March. Those interested in attending the tour should contact Laura Miller a millerlau@easternct.edu.

4. Waste/Recycling and Composting Updates – Laura and Zac report on CT Recycling

Conference: Over 100 attendees partook in the conference, which included 3 panels on packaging materials, state legislation—such as Connecticut's goal of diverting 60% of its waste through recycling by the year 2024, and converting waste materials into renewable energy—featuring a presentation by Quantum Biopower. DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee was the keynote speaker. Laura reported that the experience was positive, but more attention could have been paid to Reducing waste and Reusing materials rather than just Recycling. See the conference agenda for more information: <http://ctrecyclers.com/events/details/2017-connecticut-recycling-conference-2>.

5. **Resilience Workshop – March 21st:** The Nature Conservancy is helping the ISE run the workshop in Eastern's Student Center Theater. The workshop is designed to bring together our campus with the surrounding community to clarify and advance resilience planning and disaster readiness.
6. **Community Garden Input:** After much consideration and discussion, President Núñez has officially disbanded the garden. For those still interested in gardening work, GROW Windham runs several gardens within the Windham area: <http://www.growwindham.org/local-gardens/>.
7. **Other:**
 - A new fuel cell was installed in December, replacing the old one near the Science Building. The new cell performs with 10% greater efficiency than the old one.
 - The Biology Club is interested in teaming up with the ISE to host a talk on campus to promote Eastern sustainability and climate change awareness to Eastern students.
 - Willi-Waste is looking interns that have an environmental or energy background. Feel free to reach out to those students that you know might be a good fit.
 - Interest was shown in bringing more bottle-refill fountains to campus, particularly to the FAIC. It was also reported that the regular drinking fountains in the FAIC are mostly unusable due to a very low water pressure.
8. **Earth Day is coming up!** Please bring ideas to the next meeting on how we should celebrate.

For more information contact Laura Miller at MillerLau@easternct.edu

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15th 9:00am Student Center 217

Attendees

Lynn Stoddard, Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)

Lourdes Ardel, Human Resources

Tara Brooks, ISE

Jacob Dayton, Biology Club

Alex Fazzino, ISE

Eric Germain, Environmental Health and Safety

Nicole Govert, Biology Club

Cindy Hodis, Purchasing

Jeff Kwolek, Dining Services

Jenna Lafleur, ISE

Weronika Lewkowicz, ISE

Laura Miller, ISE

Shellena Pitterson, Facilities Management & Planning

Zachary Stygar, ISE

Paul Torcellini, Environmental Earth Science