

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 26th at 9:00am Student Center 217.

1. Welcome and introductions

2. **Guest visitor to speak about Composting Facility in Southington CT and possibilities for Eastern:** Food waste is an increasingly impacting issue. Connecticut annually produces about 2.3 million tons of trash, of which 22% - or 500,000 tons - is food waste. Eastern alone produces about 105 tons of food waste annually. Jeff Kwolek of Dining Services invited John Ferguson, the Business Development Manager of Quantum Biopower, to discuss how Quantum could help Eastern to repurpose its food waste and divert it from landfills.

Quantum accepts most food waste, even packaged goods, allowing convenience for their clients by separating out the inorganic materials themselves. They divert whatever non-food materials they can to recycling centers. Then Quantum processes the food waste through anaerobic digestion. This digestion produces methane gas and heat, both of which are captured and used as a form of renewable energy. The leftover physical material is usable as a fertilizer. See the attached PDF for further information about Quantum Biopower.

Quantum does not haul waste for their clients. However, UConn is also considering using Quantum's composting services, so there is an opportunity for us to collaborate with UConn in delivering our food waste to Quantum's facilities.

3. **Waste and Recycling Updates:** In performing waste audits, ISE interns found that some dumpsters – like at Laurel Hall and Low Rise – may need more frequent pickups from Willi-Waste. The waste audits will also help to produce graphs analyzing Eastern's waste production and handling, which will be presented at a future meeting. Renee Keech is finalizing a day with Willi-Waste to weigh Eastern's waste. Renee also said Willi-Waste is using a survey to confirm that all new recycling dumpsters have been installed on campus. Once confirmation is given, Renee will send out an email to faculty and staff promoting on-campus recycling. Renee posed the idea of posting simplified recycling signage in the entryways of the residence halls to further encourage and inform students.
Next Steps: ISE to send Renee list of locations that need pick-up adjustments.

4. **Campus Sustainability Week:** ISE intern Zachary Stygar promoted the celebration on Wayne Norman's radio show, WILI 1400AM. About 40 students attended the screening of *Sustainable*, a documentary. Occum Hall won the energy challenge offered to resident halls during the Warrior's Cup. Occum residents reduced their weekly energy use by 12%. The books leftover from the ISE book swap were donated half to the Willimantic Hospital, and half to the Windham Library. Visit the [events calendar](#) to see the full range of events offered during the week.

5. Other

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

Next meeting: Monday, November 21st 9:00am Student Center 217

Attendees

Lourdes Ardel – *Human Resources*

Leticia Denoya – *Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)*

Lucinda Diaz – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Cindy Hodis – *Purchasing*

Renee Keech – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Laura Miller – *ISE*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science*

Lynn Stoddard – *ISE*

Zachary Stygar – *ISE*