

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

**Tuesday February 23rd, 2016
9:00am Student Center 221**

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Discussion on 2016 Action Priorities:

-Organics, composting of food waste

-Purchasing

-Transportation survey: Collect data about faculty and staff commuters; promote awareness of CT Rides and similar resources.

-Signage around campus

-Recycling\Waste management: Quantify waste data; set recycling goals; review successes and continue to look for improvements in outreach, bin capacity, and monetary savings.

-Sustainability in academics: Increase climate literacy. Build a library of possible student projects (ex., inventory of invasive plant species on campus) such as data studies or inventories—such numbers, even if used only in a hypothetical context, could give students experience with real world data. Could be applied across multiple disciplines to boost our ASHEE STARS academic rating.

-Climate plan: Flesh out strategy and attainable milestones.

3. Waste/recycling updates: Concern was voiced that the recycling bins in the Food Court promote sorted recycling, raising the question of whether Chartwells' waste receptacles are managed separately from Eastern's. There was a general consensus that we should reach out to Willimantic Waste for clarifications about their specific recycling rules (ex., whether to leave bottle lids on or off during disposal).

Next Steps:

- A. Collaborate with Chartwells to present a unified message on mixed recycling on campus.

Data and Measurement – Trevor: Laura Miller presented a PowerPoint presentation created by ISE intern Trevor Warbin, which broke down waste audit data into graphs comparing student and staff waste practices. The PowerPoint also presented a list of days spread throughout key periods of the Eastern year to schedule waste weighing days with Willimantic Waste. Such a measurement could provide a better picture of the waste cycle at Eastern. The days include once during spring and fall semester each, once during winter break, once in summer when camp activity is at its peak (in mid-June), and once in summer when the campus is at its quieter point (around early July).

Next Steps:

- A. Laura Miller to send the PowerPoint out to GCC members.
- B. Renee Keech to request waste weighing days from Willi-Waste: 9/28, 1/10, 2/17 mid-June, beginning of July

Campus Outreach – Outreach email: The goal is to inform staff and faculty about the recycling stickers, recycling video, and recent money savings in Eastern's waste management.

Next Steps:

- A. ISE to confirm that all stickers have been distributed.
 - 1. ISE to schedule for Trevor and Jenny to follow along with early evening custodian work to gain access to otherwise locked rooms.
 - 2. ISE interns to identify locations where there are no bins.
- B. 1. Laura Miller to resend draft outreach email to Renee Keech.
 - 2. Renee Keech to send out mass outreach email to faculty and staff.

Working with custodians: Lucinda Diaz voiced that there are some concerns regarding the new recycling bins. Shorter custodians are struggling to use the lids on top of the dumpsters. Shellena Pitterson brought up the question about whether or not we can swap out the many, small, blue, wheeled, recycling tote bins with fewer, larger, recycling dumpsters.

Next Steps:

- A. Have ISE intern Trevor &/or Dan pay attention to the following on their next waste audits:
 - Do the new recycling dumpsters have side doors?
 - What is the recycling situation like in SRV/areas that use wheeled tote bins?
- B. Renee Keech and Tom Mindek need to meet with housekeeping/custodians to discuss what they see happen in the recycling process to help further determine whether or not to keep the wheeled blue bins.

Moving Toward Zero Waste Webinar: – 3pm, Thursday March 10th.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5063410847740311053>

Next Steps:

- A. Josh Sumrell to set up a central location (possibly Student Center Theater) for people to view the webinar together. Will possibly schedule a discussion session immediately following the webinar.
- B. Josh Sumrell to send out mass email to staff and faculty informing them of the webinar and group viewing opportunity.

4. **Transportation survey:** ISE intern Emma Avery has helped to produce a survey for Eastern staff and faculty about their daily commute. Modeled off a similar survey by Yale, the survey is tied with Eastern's recent partnership with the US Dept. of Energy's Workplace [Electric Vehicle] Charging Challenge.

Objectives: To better understand Eastern commuter habits and to identify areas that welcome improvement to or encouragement of more sustainable habits.

Review of questions: Along with gathering data about the distances commuted by Eastern employees, the questions will look at the interest, concerns, and actual use of public transportation, carpooling, and electric vehicles. Respondents will also be asked their stance on climate change to measure Eastern's overall current mindset on the subject.

Timing for being sent out: Soon.

Next Steps:

- A. Paul Torcellini to connect with Facilities staff to install meter on EV charger.
- B. Do Transportation Survey of Students in the future.

5. **Celebrating Eastern Sustainability – Jenna:** Jenna Lafleur of the ISE reported on sustainability event planned for April 12 in the Student Center Lobby from 12pm-1:30pm. Event to include a scroll where people can sign a pledge to live more sustainably, a selfie station, and screening of the recycling videos. Jenna to work with bookstore to display new merchandise with Eastern's new sustainability logo. Environmental Club to possibly collaborate and host table at this event.

Next Steps:

- A. Jenna to talk with Environmental Club and EES to coordinate events.

6. **AASHE STARS – Laura:** Laura Miller worked with various departments to address ASHEE's questions about our STARS and submission and successfully maintained Eastern's Silver Rating.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 22nd at 9:00am Student Center 221.

Attendants

Lynn Stoddard, ISE
Laura Miller, ISE
Emma Avery, ISE
Jenna Lafleur, ISE
Steve Nathan, EES
Paul Torcellini, EES
Cindy Hodis, Purchasing
Shellena Pitterson, Facilities
Lucinda Diaz, Facilities
Kathy Martel, Bursars
Josh Sumrell, Housing
Eric Germain, Environmental Health & Safety