

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 27th at 9:00am Student Center 217.

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** The Bookstore will begin selling reusable water bottles featuring Eastern's sustainability logo. ISE introduced new staff member Jessica LeClair.
- 2. Waste and Recycling Updates:** Renee Keech has renewed Eastern's contract with Willi-Waste and made revisions based off the waste audit data, like reducing the size of some dumpsters, removing the wheeled tote bins, and reducing the amount of pick-up days. The revisions will save Eastern about another \$10,000. Eastern will also be getting green recycling dumpsters to further distinguish them from the trash dumpsters. Renee is interested in posting the recycling video on the Facilities website.
 - Additional signage in Hurley Dining Hall: ISE intern Weronika drafted and presented informational signs to post in Hurley about the green dining features provided by Chartwells. A request was made for the addition of a sign to explain the benefits of trayless dining
 - Audit updates: ISE intern Zac revamped the waste audit database; it now comes with formulas that data can be plugged into to produce graphs and other analytical information, such as weight estimates. One suggested audit strategy was to do one audit a day, every day of one week per month.
 - Move in recycling receptacles: Lauren Polansky ran a recycling skit during SOAR. Jeff Kwolek is talking with UConn about possibly acquiring their leftover food buckets to add to our stock of repurposed recycling buckets. Housing has added recycling bins to the list of what student residents should bring to the dorms. Housing is also adding recycling and sustainability to its RA curriculum and would like to utilize ISE interns to deliver some training to empower RA's in spreading the word along to student residents. is also looking to add a dorm vs. dorm recycling contest to the Warrior's Cup Challenge.

Next Steps: Renee to send new waste pickup days and locations to ISE staff. Facilities will distribute signage and messaging about the new green recycling dumpsters once they arrive. Renee to schedule a waste weighing day with Willi-Waste for early in the fall semester. Weronika to send dining signage drafts to Jeff.

- 3. Hurley Hall Updates:** Jeff reported that Hurley is to remain trayless. A small amount of trays will be kept on hand for those students with accessibility needs. He also reported on major redecorating of Hurley Hall, including: the removal of cubbies from the entryway, the allowing of backpacks within the hall, the removal of 10 planters, and general rearranging of the hall to maximize accessibility and aesthetic appeal. He is also working on adding a grab-'n-go cooler near the entrance, similar to the one in the Food Court, and on ramping up the social media presence of Dining Services.
 - **Compostable Food:** The pig farmer that Jeff had been in contact with has confirmed that he would be willing to compost Hurley's food waste. The farmer would be able to pick up waste every day of the week except Sunday. If approved, the food waste diverted from the trash could save Eastern money.
 - **Compostable Dishware:** Moving forward, Jeff want's to certify the President's Welcome Back

Picnic through Yale's Green Event Certification, saying we are eligible for a Platinum rating. If approved, he aims to use disposable dishware that is compostable, which would require on-site signage and education to ensure that items are disposed of in the correct bins. ISE has offered availability in assisting with such composting messaging. If the event certification goes well, it could lead to Green Workplace Certification and compostable disposable dishware for Hurley Hall and the Food Court.

4. Monitoring Green Parking Spaces Update:

- ISE intern Alex investigated carpooling at other universities. Aside from vanpools that use distinct vehicles, carpools are harder to prove, making enforced carpool parking fairly unviable. But he also found ways to encourage carpooling. Zimride, used by the University of California, lowers the cost per person as more people join the carpool.

- Alex also researched LEED's Low Emission, Fuel-Efficient (LEFE) initiative. LEFE provides an annually updated excel database that rates vehicles' efficiency and cleanness on a scale from 0-100. Eastern could use this list to initiate a new permit to enforce what vehicles may use its green parking spots. Cars that meet a minimum rating of 40+ or 45+ points (the higher limit could make it more competitive) could be granted a green decal-either in addition to the regular parking stickers, or as its own special decal. If pursued, a green permit could be released in phases, starting with Eastern's fleet vehicles. One idea raised suggested the replacing of some of the metered spots in the library commuter lot with green spots to encourage green vehicle use and to increase the limited amount of green parking spaces. The method of enforcing the permit would be determined by campus police, but could work as a monetary fine for violators.

Next Steps: ISE to develop a proposal and schedule meeting with Eric to discuss viability of a green parking permit.

5. Green Purchasing Policy Update: ISE intern Tara presented a draft policy for Eastern (see email attachment) modeled off Yale's green purchasing policy. The draft was prepared with input by Paul Torcellini and Cindy Hodis. The policy references state statutes in its guidelines for procuring products from various categories. Committee members are welcome to submit any revisions or suggestions for the draft policy to Laura Miller at millerlau@easternct.edu

6. Housing Priority Points – Residence Life: Housing Director LaMar Coleman is looking for service opportunities that Eastern's resident students can do to earn Priority Points. ISE intern Weronika presented ideas like cleanup days for the arboretum and Eastern's community garden or a clothing drive. Another idea was that every time a student takes out their room's recyclables they could log it with their RA and after logging, say, 10 days they could earn a point. Other ideas included students making educational posters, or students designing and then doing their own project.

Next Steps: Three finished proposals will be presented at the next GCC meeting for review. The committee can then submit the proposals to Housing before the September 1st deadline.

7. Upcoming Sustainability Events:

Campus Sustainability Week: ISE is welcoming event ideas for Campus Sustainability Week.

- **When:** October 3rd – 7th
- **Where:** Campuses all over CT
- **Who:** Students, Faculty, and Staff

Be a part of the second annual Campus Sustainability Week! The 2015 event included 20+ sustainability events at five CT campuses! Students, Faculty, and staff participated in everything from garden cleanups to sustainable yoga and a vegan potluck.

http://www.easternct.edu/sustainenergy/upcoming_events/

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

Next meeting: Wednesday August 24th, 9:00am, Student Center Room 217

Attendees

Lourdes Ardel, *Human Resources*

Emma Avery, *ISE*

Graham Benedict, *ISE*

Tara Brooks, *ISE*

Alex Fazzino, *ISE*

Renee Keech, *Facilities Management & Planning*

Jeff Kwolek, *Food Services*

Jenna Lafleur, *ISE*

Jessica LeClair, *ISE*

Weronika Lewkowicz, *ISE*

Laura Miller, *ISE*

Stephen Nathan, *Environmental Earth Science*

Shellena Pitterson, *Facilities Management & Planning*

Zachary Stygar, *ISE*