

## Green Campus Committee Meeting Minutes 10/28/14

People present:

- Lynn Stoddard, Director of ISE, and Green Campus Committee Chair
- Renee Keech, Interim Director of Facilities
- Laura Miller, Energy Technical Specialist, ISE
- Kyle Ellsworth, ISE intern
- Paul Torcellini, Endowed Chair, Center for Sustainable Energy Studies
- Shellena Pitterson, Drafting
- Steve Nathan, Professor Environmental Earth Science
- Lourdes Ardel, Human Resources
- Joshua Sumrell, Housing and Residential Life
- Lauren Polanski, EES student, Leadership Program
- Jason Coombs, Director Food Services
- Eric Germain, Environmental Health and Safety

### **2. Recycling Update**

- Eric shared campus recycling data that is reported to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection DEEP each year (see attachment to email). The graphs show the past five years' worth of data for single stream, mixed paper, scrap metal, leaves, light bulbs, waste oil, and cooking grease.

- The committee were interested in what is happening in the residence halls, and how we can ensure that recycling is happening here.

- The committee would like to know the typical amount of waste disposed in a year, as well as the % of trash diverted, and the % of trash reduced.

- Eric Germain will speak to Willi Waste about getting annual waste disposal tonnages for Eastern

- Laura will send list to everyone of what can and cannot be recycled according to Willi Waste

### **Food Overview**

- Eastern now has a biodiesel pickup, the company Eastern uses is Newport Biodiesel as they put clean pads down, and run rewards programs for foods.

- There are 4 dining locations on campus, Hurley, Student center café, library two cafes. In the fall projects on campus such as project clean plate are very much student driven.

- Edible food waste amounts to one of Hurley's biggest costs that could be reduced. Food is measured weekly and monthly to gain the number of gallons. Many on campus groups such as MALES, People Helping People, and FEMALES help with food waste reduction efforts, and also help donate food to the covenant soup kitchen.

- Jason said there could be composting if there was a reliable source to send to, Lynn suggested an RFP on organics could be written to see who would respond.

- Jason will share metrics from some of the food programs he spoke about (e.g. project clean plate, etc.). Jason will also identify needs for help from ISE students e.g. research on food miles travelled or Carbon footprint for various foods, signs, etc.

- Josh – The Green Themed housing students attended a zero waste conference in NH, which gave them many ideas about potential projects for Eastern. One included using reusable dishware made from corn starch.
- Jason – Eastern uses green ware, and are thinking about starting up an incentive program that puts the onus on reusable items onto students.
- Shellena – Watched a webinar offered by Rutgers University about how they have successfully set, and met waste reduction and diversion goals over time. Shellena suggested partnering with Willi waste to find out more about how they operate at Eastern.

### 3. Solarize U

- New pilot program in CT, that Eastern along with 6 other Higher Ed. Institutions is currently part of.
- Involves educating residents about having solar on their homes, and using the university to promote outreach to our employees.
- October 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am, there will be a Solarize-U meeting at Eastern in student center 217.

### 4. AASHE STARS

- Overview – the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has a ranking system known as STARS
- In December 2012 the green campus committee submitted information in the areas of academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration and, innovation (see attached spreadsheet for more details about points)
- The committee would like to begin on working to resubmit our AASHE STARS ranking since a couple of years have gone by. There is no deadline for resubmission, but it helps to create a benchmark and track our sustainability progress moving forward.
- The committee discussed the possibility of promoting awareness of sustainability efforts on campus through lunch n learns, and or university hour.
- Lynn collected names of those who wanted to take on the role of being a point person for each section, these people will aim to meet before the next green campus committee meeting.  
Steve – Academics  
Renee – Operations  
Laura – Planning & Administration

### 5. Events

- **When:** Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>: 9am – Noon, **Where:** Southern CT State University, **What:** Student Coalitions workshop (sponsored by ISE and Yale Office of Sustainability, for more information and to register click [HERE](#))
- **When:** Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 8am-2pm, **Where:** Aquaturf, Plantsville, **What:** CT Organics Recycling Conference and Trade Show, ISE is a sponsor. For more information click [HERE](#)

Next meeting, Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 11am, Student Center 221.