

Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Monday, June 19th at 8:30am Facilities Conference Room.

1. Welcome and introductions: The ISE has hired 3 new interns and an additional intern will join them in the fall. ISE interns have been touring other Connecticut universities' sustainable features; anyone interested in joining a tour can request the time and dates from Laura.

Waste/Recycling Updates:

- Renee is renegotiating Eastern's contract with WilliWaste to reduce the frequency of pickups and to reduce the size of some dumpsters. Eastern is set to save \$50,000 this year in waste service reduction, and has saved about \$100,000 since we began renegotiating our services a couple years ago.
 - Zac reported that waste audits will be performed three times a week starting this week, and that attention will be paid to the levels of contamination in the recycling dumpsters.
 - Recycling education needs: President email, Video, Signage: Laura confirmed that incoming freshman will be shown the recycling video at SOAR. ISE intern Noah is researching recycling messaging strategies used on other campuses.
 - Laura is working with Renee and Darren Nosal to update Eastern's benchmarking. Renee is tracking Eastern's fuel and electricity use and has most-but not all-buildings' data through a substation, while several buildings have their own account. Some gas readers—including the one at the Heat Plant—are malfunctioning, for which Renee is working to create a fix.
2. Food Waste Updates: Jeff reported that reusable To-Go boxes will officially replace disposable To-Go boxes in Hurley hall in the fall. Dining services have located storage for the boxes and are now looking at how many to order. The 1,000 or so reusable boxes would remove about 18,000 disposable To-Go boxes out of the waste stream. Students would buy their box once with the option to return it at the end of the year (but not for a refund). Hurley must wash the dirty boxes that students would turn in in exchange for clean boxes. One question posed by Jenna is: replacing disposable To-Go boxes is mitigating our waste, but how much more water will we use to wash the reusable To-Go boxes?
 - Jeff also note that our service with Quantum Biopower has stopped for the summer because not enough food waste is being produced to warrant a pickup. Service to Hurley Hall resume in the fall. Laura will make a follow-up meeting with Jeff to plan how interns from Dr. Torcellini or the ISE can help create student-based messaging for Hurley composting.
 3. Upcoming events: Campus Sustainability Week October 9th – 13th – ISE interns and staff are organizing about 5 events on campus, the events include: a trail run, a book swap, a movie screening, with other ideas for engaging with student activities and dining services for some lawn games. Anyone is welcome to help with these events or to organize their own events. The ISE will try to collaborate on some events with Student Activities. ISE interns presented their event ideas:
 - Noah proposed a bike repair station/community bike ride; a display of 1,000 plastic bottles; Friday Night Lights Out where students go around campus shutting off excess

lights (Renee said certain lights-like in restrooms-must be kept on); and a 3 mile fun run at Mansfield Hollow (Norma noted that a Fun Run ideal because a Race increases pressure on the participants and requires official timekeeping).

- Nadia proposed a plant sale, tours of the green house, a petting zoo, and a book swap in collaboration with the English Honor Society.
- Josephine proposed a film festival of sustainably themed movies (Paul noted that EES has the budget to buy the license for movies we don't yet have); a mini outdoor pavilion featuring lawn games (like cornhole where recycleables and trash have to be disposed of in the correct bins) and food booths.

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

Next meeting: Tuesday July 18th, 10:00 am, location TBD

Attendees

Lourdes Ardel – Human Resources

Emma Avery – Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)

Nadia Balassone - ISE

Josephine Brickner - ISE

Eric Germain – Environmental Health and Safety

Noah Hallisey - ISE

Cindy Hodis - Purchasing

Renee Keech – Facilities Management & Planning

Jeff Kwolek – Dining Services

Jenna Lafleur - ISE

Laura Miller - ISE

Stephen Nathan – Environmental Earth Science (EES)

Shellena Pitterson – Facilities Management & Planning

Zachary Stygar - ISE

Paul Torcellini - EES

Norma Vivar - ISE