



Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee (GCC) Meeting Monday, October 16th at 10:00am Student Center Room 221

Attendees

Lynn Stoddard, Green Campus Committee Chair – *Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE)*

Nadia Balassone – *ISE*

Michael Fuller – *Housing*

Renee Keech – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Zachary Stygar – *ISE*

Norma Vivar – *ISE*

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Waste/Recycling Updates – Zach: Renee reported that trash and recycling pickups at Hurley Hall have increased to three times a week, with no additional charge from Willi-Waste. Monthly waste audits are continuing, once a day for one week per month, usually the second-to-last week of the month. Renee may do a secondary audit on a different week. September's audit, done the week of 9/25 – 9/29, revealed that High Rise, Laurel-Nutmeg, and Constitution had full recycling dumpsters. Contamination of trash in the recycling dumpsters was up to between 20% and 30%; Mead, Burnap and Crandall had notably high contamination levels. Renee will contact Housing about outreach options to reinforce the message that the green dumpsters are for recyclables only. Michael, the advisor of Green Theme Housing (GTH), suggested GTH as a potential partner in reaching out to students. He announced that on 10/25 GTH will hold a recycling program in Laurel Hall. GTH welcomes any program ideas we could provide, and has funding that could be used in collaboration with the GCC; he can be reached at fullermi@easternct.edu. The idea of a newer, simpler recycling sticker came up, particularly one with a larger recycling logo. While the current sticker instructs on what items can and cannot be recycled, Michael remarked that a simplified wall sign stationed above recycling bins might make for better visibility. Michael said he can survey the amount of recycling bins in residence hall common rooms, and report to Renee whether or not more are needed.

3. Food Waste Updates – Jeff: Hurley received a new, clean food waste compactor in early September after bugs were discovered in the old one. Most students seem to like the new reusable To-Go boxes, which have gone into use without any issues. Jeff is interested in adding compostable bin liners to the post-consumer food waste collection bins. The Warrior Food Recovery Program continues to donate leftover, unspoiled food to the Willimantic Covenant Soup Kitchen. About 3-4 pans are donated twice a week. Last week's donation weighed in at 90 pounds. Jeff noted that we do not have pictures of the program in action; he and Zachary will work to arrange a photo-op, possibly with Tom Hurlbut, the University Photographer.

4. Email Outreach - Sharing monthly message from greencampuscommittee@easternct.edu: Laura shared a preview for October's and November's 'Sustainability Snippet'. This monthly message will be sent to faculty and staff to increase the visibility of Eastern's green features and initiatives in order to build up a campus culture of sustainability.
5. Poster Project – Shellena, Steve: The GCC has been working with Anne Dawson of the art department on an in-class poster assignment for the spring semester. Students will be asked to design posters that showcase Eastern sustainability. The top designs will be posted around campus. We will contact University Relations to discuss the allowed formatting and locations where the posters can be placed. One suggestion is to open the graded posters up for a campus-wide vote, and give the top five designs a prize, like a gift card to the Student Center Food Court. Last week Shellena, Laura, and Steve met to brainstorm a matrix of topics and target audiences that can be presented to the participating art professors. Recycling, waste, and energy will be the key themes, but a focus on a variety of details—e.g., cost savings, social justice, environmental impact—will be encouraged with the intent of appealing to a broader, diverse audience. One idea is to expand the project to other majors, like economics or EES, to supply further sustainability information or analysis for the design project.
6. Sharing successes of Campus Sustainability Week: Campus Sustainability Week is celebrated yearly by multiple CT campuses to boost green visibility and culture. Laura and the ISE interns helped organize and promote events, including a book swap collaboration with Sigma Tau Delta--the English Honor Society, several movie screenings, a solar cooker display, and an inter-dorm energy contest. Jeff organized a farmer's showcase of the local farmers that are used by Chartwells. ISE intern Nadia observed that attendance at the events was pretty decent. Norma and former ISE intern/ current GTH president Noah Hallisey organized a noncompetitive trail run at Mansfield Hollow State Park. Norma thanks Facilities, Campus Police, and the Center for Community Engagement for providing supplies and volunteers. Thanks were also given to Dining Services, Bagel One, and Rita's Italian Ice for providing food for the post-run picnic. About 30 runners participated, paying day-of and pre-registration fees that will seed future sustainability-themed runs and events.
7. Other: - Jeff reported that two weeks ago, Hurley Hall partook in the CT Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef week, during which each day highlighted a food item and the farm that supplied it.
 - Michael asked about Eastern's defunct community garden. Lynn explained how the low availability of volunteers, due to peak production being in summer, meant that the garden was not highly maintained. It was shut down in January 2017, and people still interested in the garden were directed to volunteer at one of the several local gardens stewarded by GROW Windham.
 - On 11/29, the Career Center has organized a sustainability-focused networking event. Four or five alumni who now work in the sustainability field will be there to share their experience and make connections with current students.

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

Next meeting: Monday November 20th 10:00am, Student Center 221.