



Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 15th at 10:00am Fine Arts Building Room 115

Attendees

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

Josephine Brickner – *ISE*

Noah Hallisey – *ISE*

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*

Laura Miller – *ISE*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Norma Vivar – *ISE*

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Waste/Recycling Updates: August waste audits will occur next week. The lack of outdoor recycling bins was brought up as a potential future issue to tackle.

3. Food Waste Updates: Jeff will ask Quantum for monthly reports on the weight of food waste processed per pick-up. Local farmers will be highlighted at the President's Picnic on 9/8/2017. One thousand reusable To-Go boxes have been received, and another 500 more are being shipped in. Laura, Zac, and ISE interns are meeting with Jeff on Thursday to provide a student perspective in discussing how to promote the To-Go boxes and composting to Eastern students. In the fall, Hurley Hall will transition to composting both pre- and post-consumer food waste. A newly installed story wall will educate students on composting; students will scrape their own scraps. Occasional food waste weighing days may be held to illuminate the amount of food wasted—and saved—by the students. Other renovations to Hurley include new LED lights, a new kitchen floor, the removal of the salad bar island, and a chalkboard to post menu items and what local farms they're sourced from. There will be an open-house (and possible photo-op) once renovations are finished.

- a.** Laura recalled how Southern CT State University held a campaign using social media and posters to encourage students to use reusable coffee mugs at the café to receive discounts on drinks. She thought it could be a good initiative for Eastern to try as well. In talking about social media, it was suggested to talk with University Relations about getting the official Eastern accounts to share sustainability posts to spread the message to a greater number of students.

4. Email Outreach:

- a.** ISE intern Noah has been preparing brief, newsletter-style outreach messages to be sent out intermittently to faculty and staff throughout the semester. Using Outlook's Sway feature, each message will highlight 1-2 green Eastern topics, like food waste recovery and energy efficiency, and local farms and businesses. The messages will feature How-To guides on recycling and composting on campus. Shellena recommends including specific mention of tangible numbers, such as cost savings and food recovery amounts, and who to contact/where to look for further information. Laura suggests asking IT to set up an email specific to the Green Campus Committee (GCC) from which to send these messages. The Committee discussed options for frequency of distribution, like once a month or once every three weeks. Briefer, event-focused messages will be sent once a day during Campus Sustainability Week in October.
- b.** In addition to email messaging, posters and signs could also make Eastern's green aspects more visible. Corkboards within and outside of classrooms would be great starting options, and Laura noted that the inside of restroom stall doors is another missed opportunity for posting information. Norma asked if the digital wall monitors could be used; Laura said we would have to contact Bev Canfield, who manages the TV screen postings. Jeff and Norma observed that students don't read wordy posters, so signs with simple visuals and minimal text would be most effective. Shellena suggested a poster design contest for students. The top 5 designs could be displayed around campus, and the winners could receive \$10 gift cards to the food court. Norma suggested displaying the finalists in the Student Center for students to vote upon in-person. If prepared in time, the voting display could be scheduled as part of Campus Sustainability Week. Shellena can reach out to Anne Dawson of the art department for input on the contest. Jenna volunteered to get in touch with University Relations to seek their input and support in the placement of posters throughout campus.

5. Eastern's Sustainability Commitments Overview:

- a.** As of 2016 Eastern has a Silver rating, good for three years, through AASHE STARS—the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System. In January 2018, preparation will begin for our 2019 resubmission to STARS under the newly released 2.1 version.
- b.** Eastern is signed on to three commitments with the nonprofit organization, Second Nature. In 2009, Eastern submitted a Climate Action Plan under the Climate Commitment. Under the Carbon Commitment, Eastern submits and tracks an inventory of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GHG submissions, previously required every two years, now need to be annually submitted. Laura presented the summary of results of a March workshop between Eastern and the local community, which was held to assess climate vulnerability as part of the Resilience Commitment. The workshop built upon a 2012 campus security preparedness initiative, backed by the Department of Homeland Security, of which Eastern was a participant. Next steps in Resilience involve preparing a plan for climate adaptation, enacting that plan within 3 years, and keeping up with annual evaluations. Moving forward with all three commitments, Eastern will review and revise its dated Climate Action Plan, incorporating GHG findings and elements from our STARS report. Participants from the March workshop will also be invited to a future GCC meeting to continue the conversation on community resilience.
- c.** Noting that the reporting work for STARS and the Second Nature Commitments takes months of work and collaboration with many different campus departments, an idea was posed to advertise and seek recruits for the GCC, recruits that could help in the data-gathering process. Dr. Nathan noted that the STARS report is helpful in how it consolidates several pieces of information into

one place. For example, it could be used to check the university's progress in comparison to the Master Plan.

6. Scheduling meetings for the fall semester
7. Upcoming events:
 - a. Campus Sustainability Week October 9th – 15th – 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. Intern Nadia is arranging two goat yoga classes to be held on the ISE lawn. Each class can hold about 20 people and will be first come, first serve. Intern Alex will use the energy dashboard to monitor another inter-dorm energy contest. Other ideas are welcome!

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

Next meeting: TBD