



## Minutes

### **Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting**

**Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am Student Center Room 221**

#### Attendees

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

Anne Dawson – *Art & Art History*

Cindy Hodis - *Purchasing*

Eric Germain – *Environmental Health & Safety*

Renee Keech – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*

Laura Miller – *ISE*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science (EES)*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Zachary Stygar – *ISE*

Paul Torcellini – *EES*

Norma Vivar – *ISE*

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

**2. Waste/Recycling Updates – Zach:** Waste audits are ramping up for the return of students, Renee asks that future audits take note of the contamination levels between recycling and trash dumpsters. Renee can email Housing about sending a reminder to students about which dumpsters are for trash and recycling. New freshman were trained on campus recycling during SOAR. Some dumpster sizes have been reduced, and pickups for some dumpsters have been increased or reduced in accordance with their observed usage. The South Residential Halls are missing a dumpster, which Renee is looking to track down.

**3. Food Waste Updates – Jeff:** The President's Picnic, though delayed by weather, was a success, drawing in 2,000 people. The return of students also means food recovery from the Food Court will resume, beginning September 25. To date, 577 reusable To-Go containers have been sold, available at \$5 a piece for students and staff. Hurley held an Open House and ribbon cutting to celebrate its new renovations, such as signage of sustainability facts. Hurley also began composting post-consumer food waste in addition to pre-consumer food waste. Students now have a designated area to scrape their plates. Food scraps are held outside behind Hurley; when the container is full, the scraps are hauled to Quantum Biopower for processing. This week Hurley is participating in CT Farm-to-Chef week to highlight locally grown food.

**4. Email Outreach - Laura:** Preview of monthly messaging to be distributed via [greencampuscommittee@easternct.edu](mailto:greencampuscommittee@easternct.edu), the new email set up for the GCC by IT. The 'Sustainability Snippets' use the Outlook Sway feature, and will be themed messages sent over the Admin and

Faculty distribution lists to promote Eastern's green initiatives and qualities. ISE students are drafting the messages, but ideas are welcome. Laura will meet with Josh Sumrell (the new Student Activities Director) to discuss sharing this or similar messaging with Eastern students.

- 5. Poster Project – Shellena, Steve, Laura and Professor Anne Dawson:** Anne observed that students may hear that Eastern is a 'liberal arts', 'green' campus, but they don't necessarily understand what that means. Stephen said we need to increase the visibility of Eastern's greenness both on and off campus. Shellena and Laura consulted with the art department to discuss the idea of poster design contest for students to promote Eastern sustainability. Anne met with her fellow art faculty and proposed a formal, in-class project instead of a contest, noting class assignments encourage guided, higher-quality designs, and are easier to manage. The project could be implemented into the curriculum for the upcoming spring semester. In the meantime, the GCC can solidify the themes that the students should address with their posters. Possible topics include campus recycling, Move-Out waste, and food waste diversion/recovery/reduction. Paul said the posters should aim for a broad, nonpartisan appeal, ie, by noting the money saved by our green initiatives. Renee posed the idea of involving business or economy students to analyze Eastern's green statistics to generate clear facts that could be used on the posters. Before the current semester ends, Anne will verify which professors will participate (ex., graphic design, senior student design teams, printmaking), and the selected faculty can attend a GCC meeting to give feedback on the project criteria and themes. When the project begins, a representative from the GCC will visit the class(es) to educate students on Eastern greenness and help answer questions they might have on the poster themes. Depending on the project timeline, the posters could be published in time for Earth Day, or even during the summer in anticipation of next fall. If the project is successful, it could become an ongoing, semi-regular assignment so that new, fresh images can keep the message from growing stale.

**6. Upcoming events - Campus Sustainability Week October 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>:**

- All week Campus Residence Hall Energy Reduction contest as part of the Dean's Cup Challenge
- Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, and Wednesday, October 11 9:00 am – 4:00 pm – Book Swap/Sale in collaboration with the English Club
- --Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Movie Screening 'Just Eat It' Student Ctr. Theatre
- --Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Movie Screening 'Reuse' Student Center Theatre
- Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm - Farmers Market outside the student center
- Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm – Fall for Nature Trail Run at Mansfield Hollow State Park RSVP and more information on [Facebook](#). Norma—All money received via registration will go into a seed fund to run next year's trail run; this year's run is funded my seed money acquired from similar past seed funding. The run is noncompetitive with casual timing. At least 20 volunteers are needed for set up, timing, and directing runners. We have reached out to Eastern athletes and may next reach out to the Center for Community Engagement. 2 vans will leave from Eastern on the day to take volunteers to and from the trail.
- \*\*Paul and Stephen suggested sending an email out 1 week prior to the events so that faculty can share the info with their classes via PowerPoint during lectures.

**\*\* We are currently seeking book donations for the book swap, please drop off any type of book at ISE, or let Laura know and we can pick up, by October 1<sup>st</sup>**

For more information contact Laura Miller at [MillerLau@easternct.edu](mailto:MillerLau@easternct.edu)

**Next meeting:** Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00am, Student Center 221.