



Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting Monday, November 20th at 10:00am Student Center Room 221

Attendees

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

Lourdes Ardel – *Human Resources*

Emma Avery – *ISE*

Nadia Balassone – *ISE*

Lucinda Diaz – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Michael Fuller – *Housing*

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*

Norma Vivar – *ISE*

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Waste/Recycling Updates – Zach: October's waste audits seemed average, with no notable spikes. There will be a December audit before students leave. Willi-Waste has delivered preliminary waste weights, broken down by amount per building's dumpster(s). Renee Keech reported via email that questions were added to a Housing survey that will soon go out to students. The questions address waste in the residence halls and attempt to reinforce the separation of recyclables and trash during disposal. Lucinda shared that she is interested in bringing recycling incentive programs to Windham households, such as with kid-friendly crafts that reuse disposable items.
3. Food Waste Updates – Jeff: Hurley's kitchen staff were sometimes trashing food scraps instead of composting them. So, Jeff bought green compostable bin-liners for both the pre- and post-consumer food waste collection bins, making it visually easier to distinguish between trash and composting stations. The Warrior Food Recovery program has so far delivered a total of 1,400 pounds—and counting—of leftover food to the Willimantic Covenant Soup Kitchen throughout the course of 2017.
- 7,000 disposable To-Go boxes have been kept out of the waste stream this semester, thanks to the reusable To-Go boxes. Emma asked about the cost comparisons between the discontinued disposable To-Go boxes and the new reusable boxes. Jeff said that the reusable containers are bigger; this semester's food expenses were a bit higher, reflecting the increased amount of food that students can now take To-Go. Resident Assistants (RAs) seem to be the only students to dislike the reusable To-

Go boxes. Their main complaint is the \$5 cost. Once the \$5 is paid, the box can be swapped for a clean box at Hurley, shared with friends, and used throughout a student's four years at Eastern without any additional cost. Emma noted that the \$5 cost seemed a good incentive to students to properly maintain their To-Go containers. The RAs have spoken out, requesting the return of disposable containers. Jeff is reaching out to President Núñez about the value of the reusable To-Go boxes, to which she is supportive. Jeff will look into meeting with the RAs to educate them on the environmental and sustainable values of the reusable To-Go boxes. Next semester, Jeff is considering making it possible for students on block meal plans to receive a free To-Go container with the purchase of the plan.

4. Email Outreach - Sharing monthly message from greencampuscommittee@easternct.edu: The GCC email does not yet have permission to send to the faculty/admin distribution lists, so Laura sent out the November Sustainability Snippet through her own email. Outlook showed that 100+ people viewed the snippet. GCC members and others are welcome to send in pictures, news, or tips that they'd like to share via the Sustainability Snippets. In related outreach news, the Eastern sustainability poster design project, an in-class assignment for art students, has been pushed to the 2018 fall semester.
5. AASHE Conference Feedback: Laura shared highlights from the annual Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Conference & Expo in San Antonio, Texas. She co-spoke with Beata Fiszer of the Yale Office of Sustainability on running a campus sustainability week. Fred Loxsom, Eastern's retired Chair of Sustainable Energy Studies, was also in attendance and sends his kind regards. Keynote speaker Katharine Hayhoe's - a climate atmosphere scientist, talked about making climate change messaging more personal to your region or state. Several states reported to having their own campus sustainability alliances. Boston University presented on their sustainability ambassadors program, in which trained student volunteers infiltrate their student body, especially new freshmen, as a way to inspire sustainability behaviors and attitudes. Boston University also shared the spreadsheet they use to assist in their yearly AASHE STARS (Sustainability Tracking And Rating System) report. The University of Vermont added a required sustainability general education course to their core curriculum, at the request of students. Other notable initiatives shared at the conference were an app for students to track their energy use, a sustainability helpdesk, and a mock dorm room to exhibit efficient/sustainable features.
6. Other: On 11/30, there will be a sustainability themed networking event in the Student Center, hosted in collaboration with Cliff Marrett and the Center for Internships & Career Development. Eastern alumni that now work with CT DEEP, Eversource Energy, RI fisheries, and as sustainability-focused consultants and photographers, will share their experiences and answer questions from current students.
 - Norma sat in on a Green Themed Housing (GTH) meeting to talk about Eastern's green image. Ideas to boost green visibility include crafty events where students can take home items—like mason jars or plates—that contain sustainability info leaflets. Increased collaboration with other campus departments was also discussed. In the spring, GTH may collaborate with the Thursday Knight Café to hold a spaghetti dinner. GTH advisor Michael Fuller said that students in Green Themed Housing are required to do green outreach and service, so any ideas the GCC could supply would be welcome.

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

Next meeting: Monday December 18th 10:00am, Student Center 221.