



Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee

Wednesday, February 21st 9:00am Student Center Room 221

Attendees

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

Lourdes Ardel – *Human Resources*

Lucinda Diaz – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Cindy Hodis – *Purchasing*

Renee Keech – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science (EES)*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Paul Torcellini – *EES*

Zachary Stygar – *ISE*

1. Welcome and introductions

2. ISE Budget & Operation Updates – Lynn: In December 2017, Connecticut swept millions of dollars from the CT Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) in attempt to fill the state's general fund. A large portion of ISE's work had relied upon CEEF, and the in the wake of these cuts, longtime staff members Laurel Kohl and Laura Miller have had to leave the ISE. As a result, Jenna Lafleur is the new coordinator for the Green Campus Committee (GCC). ISE's Sustainable CT program is grant funded by private foundations and is continuing forward.

3. Transition planning for Eastern: After losing two staff, ISE is seeking a more collaboration in maintaining Eastern's green goals. Lynn presented an overview of Eastern's climate and resilience commitments, and GHG and STARS reporting (see attached PowerPoint).

a. President Núñez sits on the Steering Committee for Second Nature's university Climate Leadership Commitments. Eastern's 2009 Climate Plan, has a goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Last spring Eastern and the Town of Windham collaborated on a resilience workshop, targeting emergency planning in the face of hazards caused by climate change. Paul suggested we revisited and update our original Climate Plan, set interim goals to build up to 2050. Steve noted that over time staff retire and new people enter the university, so we should set up the next generation of GCC for success. Paul and Steve suggest active, aggressive planning. For instance, Renee wants to improve the old buildings on campus, and retrocommission the Fine Arts building. Renee noted that the System Office is calling for our Capitol Plan for the next 10 years, due in May. Paul noted his familiarity with California's efforts to make all new buildings net zero energy by 2025, and could act as a resource. Paul and Steve suggest we collaborate on our climate planning with the administrative authorities to align it with Eastern's Master Plan and the 10-year Capitol Plan.

b. Eastern's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have fluxed over time, and with Shafer, Communications, and Goddard halls going off- and online for renovations, will likely

- continue to flux. ISE has recently ordered a new emission calculation tool for GHG reporting. In the past, Darren Nosal has provided ISE with utility bills for calculating Eastern's emissions. However, Renee has found discrepancies between the bills and the buildings' meters, and will send ISE the utility meter data. Steve suggested a next step of determining how best to portray GHG data in order to most clearly show impact (i.e., per sq. ft. per building, or per student).
- c. STARS reports are used by Cool Schools, the Princeton Review, and others for ranking universities, making STARS a useful visibility tool. STARS is also useful internally for tracking Eastern's sustainability progress across multiple disciplines. Our most recent report was in 2016, but Lynn will look into the expiration date for when a new report will be needed. Moving forward, the GCC may devote a meeting to a deeper dive into meeting the needs for updating our STARS report.
4. Waste/Recycling Updates – Zac: Due to poor weather, there has not yet been a February waste audit.
 - Renee says the weights from Willi-Waste came in, but more will be needed over time. When we renew our waste contract, we will incorporate the request for more and consistent waste data.
 - It is the first anniversary of the Food Recovery Program! The Center for Community Engagement has delivered over 2,000 pounds of food from Hurley Hall to the Covenant Soup Kitchen.
 5. Email Outreach - Sharing monthly message from greencampuscommittee@easternct.edu: Using Outlook Sway to send a newsletter of sorts to faculty and staff every few months. Each Sway includes news, local highlights, and tips about Eastern sustainability. Maybe the April Sway can highlight Move Out and we can ask Michelle Delaney about sending it to students.
 6. Poster Outreach Update: Steve, Shellena, and Jenna to meet on progress and contact Art Department.
 7. Move Out Waste Donations: Historically, WAIM picked up the donations. Paul suggests boosting visibility by renting a truck and placing it in a central location to collect students' unwanted items. Paul and Renee will meet with Housing to begin plans for this year's Move Out.
 8. Earth Day (proposing campus activity on 4/20): Paul's interns and the Environmental Club will once again hold events in the student center, maybe this year in conjunction with Green Theme Housing. They will feature topics like Eastern's GHG commitments, prevention of climate change, and Move Out Waste Collection.
 9. Other: - Shellena will reach out to Nick Messina about airing recycling videos on the digital monitors around campus.
 - Lynn will talk to Ed Osborn about pop-up displays for events that have recycling messaging; Paul says the EES department could fund them.
 - One idea is to, at some events, do opening remarks with recycling tips, similar to 'emergency exit location' remarks before a play. Renee will reach out to Eric Germaine and Ed Osborn about whether this idea could work out.
 - We could pilot the President's Picnics and University meetings as zero-waste events. Jeff Kwolek could train his staff to direct people to compost or recycle their waste. Perhaps students, like Paul's interns or from Green Theme Housing, could be granted priority points to help direct people to the correct waste bins.

For more information contact Jenna Lafleur at lafleurj@easternct.edu

Next meeting: Wednesday March 21, 9:00am, Student Center 221.