



Minutes

Eastern Connecticut State University: Green Campus Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 16th 11:00am Student Center Room 221

Attendees

Jeff Kwolek – *Dining Services*

Jenna Lafleur – *ISE*

Kathy Martel – *Fiscal Affairs*

Stephen Nathan – *Environmental Earth Science (EES)*

Shellena Pitterson – *Facilities Management & Planning*

Lauren Polansky – *Student Activities*

Jermaine Whyte – *Housing*

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Recap: Zero-Waste Event: Paul and his students helped direct guests in proper bin disposal at the event. For 375 guests, there was only 12 pounds of trash in the form of Sterno fuel cans and burger packaging. All food waste and dishware was compostable and was sent to Quantum Biopower in Southington for processing. People complimented the bamboo plates that Jeff ordered specially for the event.
3. Move Out: Jermaine Whyte of Housing coordinated the Move Out Swap Shop, with assistance from his RAs. Over the course of a week they students donated items, which were stored and sorted at Winthrop before being picked up by WAIM and the Covenant Soup Kitchen/No Freeze Shelter. Some donate-able items were recovered from the dumpsters. 156 pounds of food were also donated to the soup kitchen. Jermaine held on to some items to share with incoming students. Jeff supplied coupons to the food court to incentivize donations; only 3 were redeemed (likely due to a strict expiration date).
For next year, Jermaine recommends starting the process much sooner to better coordinate with Green Theme housing and other volunteers. One option could be to make Move Out count toward RAs' required projects. Another idea is creating an 'Eco-Rep' position in each hall, a student volunteer or intern, perhaps eligible for earning priority points, that could coordinate Move Out and similar initiatives throughout the year. Earlier planning would also help in promoting the swap shop; for example, Hall Directors could send out email blasts to their residents. Shellena suggested opening the Swap Shop earlier, like in the beginning of April, before the dumpsters are even out to encourage donations. Jermaine suggests collecting food donations throughout the year, to better salvage food that might otherwise expire, perhaps monthly or once per semester.
4. Drive Less CT: Eastern joined other organizations in the CTrides Drive Less CT competition, encouraging greener commuting. Faculty feedback about the event noted that there are very few Eastern employees registered to CTrides' commuter match-up service, which made it difficult to find someone to carpool with. Shellena did a survey in the past that found most people on campus prefer convenience in their commute. Jeff noted that campus schedules are too varied, and people come from all over the state. Either the snippet or a separate email could promote CTrides and inform people interested in carpooling on how to connect with each other, and that the more sign up, the



easier it will be to find a compatible commute. The message can pull from the CTrides website to highlight the benefits and stats about carpooling/green commuting. Lauren could share the message with commuter students.

5. **Going Paperless:** Faculty member Bradley Davis reached out to ask if there were any active initiatives involving paperless classrooms, which at the time, there were none. Steve observed heavy paper use in the classroom but noted that for some classes, like labs, paper is necessary because students need to show their work as they perform an experiment. That said, there are ways that paper use can be reduced, and we will include paperless tips in the next Sustainability Snippet. Tips can include printing double-sided whenever possible, posting assignments on Blackboard instead of as handouts, and asking for digital-only submissions. Steve will check with IT about whether they can set the university's printers to print double-sided by default (where users would have to manually switch to print one-sided).
6. **Green Poster Project:** Lynn tracked down at least \$2,000 of funding dedicated specifically to use by the Green Campus Committee (GCC). Steve Howarth confirmed that the GCC should receive \$2,000 a year from a specific fund. Jenna researched common poster prices based on size and material, and determined that the cost to print posters will likely be well within \$500. We can print 11x17 color posters for free through Eastern's copy shop, which would make sense for placing posters on the communal bulletin boards. The Student Center's digital monitors could be another cost-effective way of displaying the posters. Shellena will ask Anne Dawson of the art department about whether they have a copy stand or large format scanner for creating a digital file of the winning poster design. The Library has a display case near the reference desk and is willing to display larger posters there. Lauren noted that of the six marquee frames outside the BTR, 3 are strictly for CAB, and 3 are open game to clubs—the 3 club frames sometimes are empty and could be a potential temporary display for the green posters. Shellena is working on a PowerPoint for presenting the assignment and sustainability information to the art class, she will share it at the July meeting.
7. **Other**

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

Next meeting: TBD