

## Sustainability Committee meeting

Friday 12 February 2010, Sharples Room 4, 8:30 am (rescheduled from Wednesday due to snowstorm)

Present: Linda McDougall, Carr Everbach, Eric Chiang, David Burgy, and Camille Robertson. Guests: Yaeir Heber, Erin Curtis, Yvonne Socolar, Alexa Ross, Jesse Marshall, Natali Cortes, Jacob Socolar.

Camille summarized Earthlust initiatives:

1. Many phonebooks go unused that are distributed by Verizon; no one on campus actually places an order for them. Linda noted that most people use the internet to find phone numbers, and that often the phonebooks stay in shrinkwrapped blocks until they are discarded. Earthlust would like to ask Departments how many phonebooks they actually want, then tell Verizon how many to deliver. Carr noted that it might be wise to have Maurice Eldridge, rather than an Earthlust student, send a message to departments asking them. Earthlust will contact Verizon to identify the person with whom the College should communicate our order.
2. Paper towels are currently used to wipe down athletic facilities such as weight machines and benches. Earthlust would like to replace the paper towels with the same white wash cloths used in the showers. Athletics employee Ray Scott suggested that Earthlust contact Tom Narkin, who was contacted via email. Would Eric Wagner be interested in spearheading this change? There are currently no towels in the Mullen Center.
3. A possible candidate for unexpended RFRC funding: loading dock curtains to keep heat in. These could save \$1500/year per dock, at a cost of \$3000 each (estimated 2 year payback based on ½ hour saved per week). The curtains are either plastic or “air curtains,” involving a blower. Possible loading docks are in LPAC, Tarble, Sharples (refrigerators as well as loading dock), Parrish, Science Center, and Facilities. Linda worried that the plastic curtains might become stiff in winter and was interested in hearing more about the air curtain option..
4. Role for Earthlust: drafting responses to GreenBox suggestions. Earthlust would like SusCom to appoint a subcommittee of current members and interested students to do this. Jacob wondered if it would be possible to institutionalize the blessing of SusCom for Earthlust initiatives more generally, but Carr expressed concern about due process. It would be best if Earthlust members proposed initiatives to SusCom during open meetings (or anytime via email); SusCom would then recommend, or not, that these initiatives be undertaken by Earthlust or any of the green groups. David agreed that the relationship between Earthlust and SusCom be best thought of as a partnership rather than a subcommittee, involving democratic actions (votes by elected members) while acknowledging that SusCom has leverage through the force of its recommendations. Carr noted that SusCom and Earthlust have complementary strengths, and so it is most efficient for each to play to its respective constituencies.

Camille announced a new initiative among green groups: the War on Waste (see attached draft document below). Particular SusCom members who have expertise in certain areas can work with students (e.g., on identifying locations for recycling and composting bins). Earthlust wanted to know if it should undertake additional signage or if the College had resources to do so. Carr noted that he had asked Director of Grounds Jeff Jabco for updated recycling rules, and that Jeff was compiling the 2009 recycling/trash totals for an all-campus email.

Camille asked if there were recycling signs the College had already printed, such as stickers (Carr said he would check with Patti Shields, EVS Director. Biology professor Colin Purrington had produced some nice graphics last Spring and Carr said he would try to locate them for consideration by SusCom.

A brief discussion of the upcoming GreenMarch plans occurred: this year GreenMarch will be more Environmental-Justice-related, with speakers , organized workshops with EVS and Dining Services employees (Linda said she supported this concept for her staff). The issue that had been raised earlier by Jacob concerning EVS employees leaving lights on might be part of such workshops.

Camille reported that Earthlust had identified locations on campus as candidates for installation of occupancy sensors (bathrooms), or natural light sensors (hallways).

The meeting concluded at 9:41 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr Everbach

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Future meetings:

Friday, Feb 19, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center. Agenda: discuss suggestions from student green groups.

Wednesday, Feb 24, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Rm 4 (open meeting)

Wednesday, March 3, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Rm 4

<Spring Break>

Tuesday, March 16, 2:30-3:30 pm (open meeting)

Friday, March 26, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center

Wednesday, March 31, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4 (open meeting)

Tuesday, April 6, 2:30-3:30 pm

Friday, April 9, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center (open meeting)

Wednesday, April 14, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4

Tuesday, April 20, 2:30-3:30 pm (Everbach away; open meeting)

Wednesday, April 28, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Rm 4

Tuesday, May 4, 2:30-3:30 pm (last meeting before Finals and Inauguration; open meeting)

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## Swarthmore's War on Waste

Goal: To reduce the output of trash from Swarthmore's campus and to foster waste consciousness in the community.

<p><b>Educative Front</b> Goal: To educate and increase awareness such that people will both create less waste and likewise dispose of that waste appropriately</p>	<p><b>Infrastructural Front</b> Goal: To investigate and enhance the infrastructure to encourage proper and accessible disposatory behavior</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Signage</b> Goal (Francesca Bolfo, Alexa Ross, Yvonne Socolar) : That every waste receptacle be properly labeled. And to proliferate signage that encourages awareness and proper disposal of waste</li><li>• <b>GA</b> Goal (Sarah and Green Advisors): To educate students to minimize waste and inappropriate disposal.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bathroom Lessons</li><li>○ Study Breaks</li></ul></li><li>• <b>P.R./Media</b> Goal (Francesca Bolfo, Zein, Kanayo, Yaeir Heber, Annie): To proliferate awareness of this campaign through the various media sources on campus, and potentially create informative media resources to convey status updates, or other information which would be helpful to the various campaigns involved.</li><li>• <b>Informational Investigatory Services</b> (Natali Cortes, Eric, Michelle) Goal: To research and compile relevant information to be used in the educative front and to monitor progress.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bin Placement</b> Goal (Jesse Marshall, Yaeir Heber) : That there be easily accessible receptacles of each type in any location which might yield that appropriate type of waste.</li><li>• <b>Compost Expansion</b> Goal (Jesse Marshall, Sarah, Erin Curtis, Yvonne Socolar, Ben Dair): To expand the accessibility to compost, mainly in the dorms.</li><li>• <b>Scrap paper</b> Goal (Natali Cortes, Jacob Socolar, Erin Curtis): To put in place the logistics necessary to make printing on previously used one sided paper a convenience rather than an inconvenience.</li><li>• <b>EVS audit</b> Goal (Annie, Camille Robertson): To ensure that all waste is being processed correctly on their end.</li></ul>

## Signage

### Action Steps:

- Assess where signage is needed/could be implemented.
- Design signs.
  - Labeling Signs
  - Informative/Instructional Signs
  - Propaganda Signs (biased data to be provided by IIS (see the red above)
    - Vivid imagery of where trash goes, and the message that we have a choice where we send it: Pictures of the Chester incinerator, trucks through the neighborhoods going there, hell what about pictures of the kids who live next to it, their names, ages, and proximity. For composting bins, a picture of the good food garden next to the incinerator. Sleek, laminated, and totally merciless.
- Produce Signs
  - Acquire Materials
  - Assemble quality, laminated, asshole proof signs
- Place Signs
  - Ensure permanence of placement, possibly consulting with powers that be where necessary
  - Coordinate signs effectively with bin placement

## GA

- Program study breaks to encourage/inform proper disposal
- Create dorm level propaganda to encourage proper disposal at home and around town
  - Work with signage people
- Work with GoodFood to iron out composting expansion
  - In the dorm get composting to be cool
    - Maybe a workshop/studybreak w/ good food on why it is so good and important and cool... etc.
  - Provide logistical composting support
  - Clear shit with EVS
  - Maintain general sterility
- Work with logistics people to acquire adequate receptacles and labelage

## P.R./Media

- Create summary (flashy PDF) press release about this campaign, its goals fronts etc.
- Get articles in Phoenix and DG
- Mediate and RSD informations that need to go out
- Possibly create a web-based resource for publicizing necessary information
- Mediate Faculty/Administrative involvement where necessary, lobby admin and suscom
- Parlour Party/events

## IIS

- Research Swarthmore's current waste outputs
  - how much
  - where it goes
  - comparison with previous years
  - break down of waste types
  - how we compare to other schools
- Waste Audit
  - What percentage of our disposing is inappropriate--as in how much compost are we putting in the trash, how much recycling into the trash et.
- Compile FactSheet (flashy PDF) for P.R and signage/propaganda/ga folks