

Sustainability Committee Minutes

21 September 2009 Monday 11:30 am Lang Center (outside front door!)

Attending: Nadine Kolowrat, Evelyn Strombom, David Burgy, Eric Chiang, Joy Charlton, Nicole Lewis, Rebecca Ringle, Carr Everbach, HG Chissell (via cellphone on speaker)

The bulk of the meeting involved planning for the “sharing session” of student and other groups and their 5-minute presentations on what issues are on their plates for the year ahead. We will call this a “Sustainability Forum.” The list of those groups is:

- SusCom--talk about objectives, what we do--clarify for student groups
- Crum Woods Stewardship
- EarthLust
- ENVS committee faculty members (Carol Nackenoff, chair); this is the year of annual review for ENVS program
- EJ
- Good Food
- Arboretum
- Green Advisors
- Alumni sustainability network (Thanks to HG)
- Facilities
- Grounds
- Environmental engineering
- Crum creek monitors
- Lang Center
- Environmental/student projects, and study abroad
- Rebecca Chopp offered to speak (n.b.: Stu Hain to attend since President Chopp was tied up in Board Weekend meetings)
- Rep from Bryn Mawr/Haverford? Climate Change Faculty (Eric Jensen)
- Phoenix and Daily

Location and scheduling worked out for Bond Hall, Friday 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm. We will repeat this again in the Spring Semester. Groups will be asked to provide a slide or two for projection on the walls of Sharples during Local Foods night, Thursday, October 1, 2009. Alumni will be invited to eat for free at Sharples that night.

A brief discussion of the timetable for the Green Revolving Loan Fund project nominations occurred. Goal is to have a list developed by the end of October, 2009, from GreenBox, Facilities, student groups, etc. We will then post the ideas for public discussion and hold an open meeting prior to a vote in by Thanksgiving break. Implementation will take place during Spring, with a report on progress due in May. Next Fall, SusCom will see if more funding opportunities are possible, depending upon rate of payback or unused portions of current funding amount.

The GHG project on which Carr and Rebecca worked this past summer will need to produce sufficient data that progress can be made this year toward a GHG reduction plan for the College. Rebecca Chopp will sign the Presidents' Climate Change Commitment but only if there is consensus on how to move forward. Carr hopes to have an updating website with this information by year's end.

Facilities monitors energy use in buildings, as well as other data such as those registered on the dials in the Science Center. There was some concern that those dials were not working, and Carr promised to ask Tom Cochrane about their status. Carr will try to obtain a complete list from Tom of all monitored elements, for display on the College website (or SusCom's).

To promote culture changes toward reducing energy waste on campus, a suggestion is for a Phoenix feature that provides graphical data (like USA Today) for recycling totals, electricity use, fuel oil, paper. Tom could possibly lead tours of the steam tunnels or equipment rooms of buildings for SusCom members, to educate us about the day-to-day infrastructure issues.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of impending electrical deregulation in Pennsylvania and the necessity to manage the campus's electrical load to avoid huge fees. Viridity is a company that may be able to help us with this, and with planning ice storage or other electricity time-shifting technologies.

The next SusCom meeting will be Friday, September 25, 2009, 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm in Bond for the Sustainability Forum. At that Forum, Carr will announce plans to prepare a slide show for the October 1 local-foods dinner in Sharples, to which the Forum participants will contribute. SusCom members are invited to attend that Thursday night dinner.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Carr Everbach