

Sustainability Committee Minutes  
26 January 2010 Wednesday  
Kohlberg 226, 2:30 pm

Attending: Nicole Lewis, Amanda Bayer, Ralph Thayer, Eric Wagner, Nadine Kolowrat, Camille Robertson, Evelyn Strombom, David Burgy, Maurice Eldridge, and Carr Everbach.

Open Meeting Visitors: Erin Curtis (Earthlust), Jacqueline Small (Phoenix).

Carr showed off Ralph's 2-watt LED bulbs for Sharples' wagon-wheel light fixtures, and asked about the directionality of brightness and the blue light color relative to the current 6-watt incandescent bulbs. He reported that the LED bulbs indeed put out approximately the same illumination level but with most of the light aimed on-axis. SusCom had previously discussed replacing all the bulbs on every other wheel, but Carr suggested replacing bulbs only on the same tier of all fixtures.

Evelyn talked to several students unable to attend today who expressed their expectation that the Renewing Fund for Resource Conservation (RFRC) be used on as many student projects as possible. Carr replied that no student-proposed projects had been offered and noted that if any were offered, they should meet the requirement that these projects pay the fund back monetarily. He said that SusCom is open to student-proposed ideas and encouraged committee members to publicize our receptivity for proposals. Carr commented on the possibility of funding clotheslines if there were a way to make them a payback project. How could we know how much electricity was saved per clothesline?

Each investment in the RFRC was discussed *ad seriatum*:

Priority 1: Nicole announced that Camille will spend Summer 2010 working on this project as an Social Service Action Award recipient from the Lang Center. Carr said that Biology Professor Jose Luis-Machado should be approached as someone who might be interested in being involved or involving students working for him this summer in the project. It will be important to build curricular tie-ins to RFRC-funded projects wherever possible (Nadine suggested Alison Holliday). In addition, student leaders in Good Food, Earthlust and other groups should be involved in this highly visible project, brainstorming and bouncing ideas back and forth by e-mail. Good Food personnel will be on campus anyway to maintain their garden, so perhaps they could work on organic lawn project also. Nicole has had many conversations with the consultant who will perform the soil analysis. We are waiting for the written proposal so that we can send a check and begin the process. Consultant would not be able to start until the ground is thawed in any case, but there seems to be good progress: Nicole reported a lab test that should be completed later this week. Our contract will begin when the consultant comes to campus, performs a hands-on evaluation of the soil, and takes samples for subsequent lab analysis. We will not be ripping up the lawn, but rather changing its management. Soil testing and initial planning should be completed by semester's end, and the project will evolve over 3-5 years.

Priority 2: Ralph announced that we will be using the 2-sided LED bulb tested by Carr for the wagon-wheel fixtures in Sharples, and that the price is \$20 per bulb as opposed to the \$29 price for the previously considered bulbs. Discussion regarding whether to buy more bulbs at this lower price or invest less money in the project. Ralph noted that the other option is to change the bulbs on certain tiers instead of entire fixtures. Ralph expressed concern about the color of the light, given that the bulbs have phosphorous coatings that make the light slightly more yellow (less blue), but the coating burns off over time. Everyone agreed that Ralph should go ahead and buy \$24,000 worth of bulbs and install them as he thinks best, likely in the top two tiers of each fixture. Ralph estimated that it will take 4 weeks to obtain the bulbs because the bulbs are manufactured to order. The Committee agreed that students and the entire Swarthmore community should be invited to be part of installing the bulbs. Electricity costs will rise next year, so this is a timely initiative.

Priority 3: Ralph is standardizing T-12 (40 watt) florescent bulb replacements with one color index to avoid different-color bulbs in the same fixture, and has found a T-8 he likes that draws only 23 watts. He and Eric Wagner walked through the sports complex, the service building, and the science complex, and identified many T-12s that could be replaced by the T-8s. Carr suggested that increasing the fund allocations for this item, but Ralph wanted to stick with \$10,000 to begin and see how the investment paid off.

Priority 4: We would like to find 12 locations for light-sensing switches in foyers and hallways. Ralph currently has a list of 4 locations. Since a Phoenix reporter is present at this meeting, we would like her article to mention that SusCom welcomes student suggestions of hallways/foyers that would benefit from light-sensors to automatically turn off lights when natural lighting is sufficient.

Priority 5: The installation of occupancy sensors in bathrooms will likely be performed by RiteWay Electric. Keeping track of the electricity savings will be somewhat challenging but important. As with the lighting sensors in Priority 4, a treasure hunt for promising bathroom locations should be advertized to the public. We are especially interested in identifying bathrooms and other locations where lights are always left on (either by human action or lack of switches). Carr suggested that we consider upping the \$5,000 allocation to \$10,000. David reminded the Committee that a signage campaign through Earthlust and Gas is also contemplated. If Earthlust or another group would like funds to print stickers, e.g., that might be arranged. Suggestions should be sent to Greenbox via the Dashboard. Ralph said he was comfortable having the search for locations span the course of the year.

Priority 6: Printer release software is funded now by ITS, so we have an additional \$6,000 to allocate to other initiatives or new ones.

Priority 7: Ralph identified a vendor that provides larger, cheaper lockers to be used as “drying closets” in a dorm laundry room. David suggested Wharton AB as a good test site.

Priority 8: Carr stated that we should seek more feedback from Student Council now that we have some unallocated funds. Linda McDougal was unable to attend this meeting but will look into Vending Misers. Evelyn offered to contact Student Council. She also suggested simply eliminating vending machines, but Maurice did not think that this was a feasible goal. Carr noted that there are many individuals who rely on these machines daily. Evelyn requested that we obtain statistics on vending machine use and Ralph agreed to contact the suppliers. David asked if there were a way to replace coolers and other hot/cold water dispensers with tap water sources. Carr emphasized that SusCom should be careful when confronting quality-of-life issues for the public. Camille brought up the issue of having redundant air driers and paper towel dispensers in many bathrooms on campus.

Evelyn requested that we add links, contact information to student green groups to the SusCom website. [This request was subsequently implemented.]

Carr adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Carr Everbach from notes by Camille Robertson

---

Next meeting: Friday, Feb 5, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center. Agenda: discuss Greenhouse Gas audit, EVS practices, cooler survey, Inauguration, Viridity

Future meetings:

Wednesday, Feb 10, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Rm 4 (open meeting)

Friday, Feb 19, 12:30-1:30 pm, Lang Center

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)