

## Sustainability Committee meeting minutes

13 September 2010, Lang Center Keith Room

Attending: Eric Wagner, Ralph Thayer, Nadine Kolowrat, Alexa Ross, Yvonne Socolar, Erin Curtis, Rebecca Ringle (Lang Center Intern), Nicole Lewis, Debra Kardon-Brown, Carr Everbach

Carr welcomed Eric, Rebecca, and Debra back for another year on the Sustainability Committee, and members again introduced themselves to the others. Because of the excellent computer projection system in the Keith Room, Carr was able to display the committee's website at <http://www.swarthmore.edu/suscom.xml> and walk through its various components, taking suggestions from the group about improvements. Eric suggested that the photo of the Physical Plant on the top page should be replaced with a slide show consisting of photos of funded initiatives. Nadine suggested that the News & Information feed available from the College should have sustainability-related items displayed on the upper left of suscom.xml. These would be just bullet-points that are links to the stories; Nadine thought the three most current items would be appropriate (and that this feature could be automated).

Carr brought the Greenbox entries to the group's attention. Eric noted that the responses are dense and text-heavy, and suggested embedded photographs where possible. Nadine thought a summary of what was accomplished last year should be included. Rebecca and Carr promised to work on these changes and get back to the group.

After the website discussion, Carr described the AASHE STARS program to which the College has subscribed. He walked the committee through the main outline of the reporting requirements, noting that, since the College has not yet been able to create a position for a Sustainability Manager, the SusCom members themselves would have to parcel out the required work. Carr showed members how the new Google Apps for Swarthmore (available from the Dash) system would allow sharing and co-editing of documents; already loaded into Carr's shared Google Docs space were the Climate Action Plans of several schools and more information about the Presidents' Climate Commitment and other items. SusCom members' homework is to read through these documents over the next few weeks.

A summary of some of the Renewing Fund allocations and the status of the projects was presented, along with the NYTimes funding for the honeybee project. A drying closet is almost complete for Wharton that would use waste heat from electric dryers to drip-dry hanging clothes. Light fixture changeovers are proceeding.

A lengthy discussion of the College's response to rating agencies followed. Carr read a letter to the editor of the Swarthmorean suggesting that SusCom should take a stand against the proposed Inn due to the loss of green open space. Eric asked if there is a way we could find out the College's total waste tonnage, since we know the tonnage of recycling and were asked for the ratio. Ralph replied that it is not possible to know because the trash trucks are not weighed, and anyway we wouldn't know how much of the weight is rainwater collecting in the dumpsters. Eric suggested a statistical sampling approach, estimating the total weight of trash from one representative dumpster.

Carr noted that Swarthmore College belongs to several groups or associations that will help us with our sustainability planning. These include AASHE, PERC, and AICUP. Determining our carbon reduction plan and entering data into STARS will be one of SusCom's major duties for 2010-2011.

Linda McDougall had asked about concerns that a plasticware material, Melamine, used for some plate and bowls in Sharples Dining Hall might be unsafe if heated in the microwave (Melamine is much more durable and less expensive than ceramic). It was suggested that ceramic or paper plates/bowls be available for heating food in the microwave, and then the food could be transferred to Melamine tableware for consumption. We will discuss this issue when we meet next in Sharples, Room 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr Everbach

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Future meetings:

Wednesday, September 22, 8:30-9:30 am in Sharples Room 4  
Monday, September 27, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
Friday, October 1, 11:30-12:30 in Kohlberg 115  
Monday, October 4, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
Wednesday, October 20, 8:30-9:30 in Sharples Room 4  
Monday, October 25, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
Friday, October 29, 11:30-12:30 in Kohlberg 115  
Friday, November 5, 11:30-12:30 in Kohlberg 115 (open meeting)  
Wednesday, November 10, 8:30-9:30 in Sharples Room 4  
Monday, November 15, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
Monday, November 22, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center  
Monday, November 29, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
Friday, December 3, 11:30-12:30 in Kohlberg 115  
Monday, December 6, 11:30 am-12:30 pm in Keith Room, Lang Center (open meeting)  
one final meeting after classes end TBA