

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 3, 11:30 am, Lang Center Keith Room

Attending: Clara Fang, Carr Everbach, Jessica Scott, Eric Wagner, Nadine Kolowrat, Joy Charlton, Nicole Selby, Deb Kardon Brown, Cameron, Tom Cochrane, Mark Davis

Carr addressed the members of the committee. He said that Ralph Thayer received notice that Swarthmore Borough has gotten attention from the Philadelphia Inquirer regarding the Borough's Green Power Community Status. Swarthmore College recently signed a contract to purchase enough wind power to cover almost all of its current annual demand. This puts Swarthmore Borough as one of the greenest powered communities in the country. The reporters meet with Carr and Ralph at 9am (Wednesday) to discuss details.

Eric asked does that mean that we can leave the lights on and it won't matter because it's wind energy? Carr answered that this is the classic conundrum because often when people switch to a greener alternative their net emissions go up. We need to go in both directions, that is, increase the greenness of our energy use and also use less of it. Wind energy offsets cost money whereas energy conservation saves money. What we are looking for is less carbon per dollar. In addition, the purchase is a one year contract and there is no commitment to continue it beyond that. Perhaps CAPCom this year can make a recommendation to commit to this purchase every year. Since we started purchasing windpower, we have agreed that we will not reduce the total kWh energy that was purchased, but there is still no commitment beyond this one year.

Eric suggested a media blitz about this purchase, and send press releases to the Swarthmorean and Delco Times. We should also publicize in college venues. Carr mentioned that Nancy Nicely at the College News and Information Office would be able to help us with college publications. Clara said she would take the lead in getting the word out about this announcement.

Carr then noted a talk this afternoon on coal mining in Columbia to power electricity use in the US. The discussion will take place in Scheuer Room at 4:30.

Carr updated the committee on Massey Burke's earthen wall project. There's going to be a public lecture tomorrow at 4:30 about the project in Science Center 199 with reception to follow. They are going to start plastering tomorrow if people want to help. She leaves campus at the end of the week.

Carr mentioned that staff development week proposals are due at the end of October. Carr will look at proposals for last year with Clara and try to come up with something for this year.

Nicole said that Tom had showed her energy efficiency cue cards that facilities had produced for the dormitories. (Tom passed those cards around to the group.) She asked if something similar could be developed for offices and classrooms. Maybe they can be developed for staff development week. Tom said that they don't have those for offices right now, but they can put something together. There's more variation in the office spaces, so it won't be as easy as for the

dorms. Nadine applauded the effort. The cards contain very basic tips and she would love to see them for staff. It's very participatory.

Nicole said that at last year's staff development week a lot of attendees were excited to follow up on suggestions. Can we solicit suggestions they have and help make it current? Carr said we can reengage those folks and get Clara's help. Nicole said they can give us suggestions through the greenbox.

Joy raised the issue of what should be the relationship between CAPCom and SusCom. She said that she was amazed by the developments in Environmental Studies that Peter Collings had told the committee about in the previous meeting. Joy suggested that the chair of Environmental Studies and the chair of CAPcom should both be members of SusCom.

Joy then talked about David Gelber, who would like to help the college organize a teach-in, maybe in the Spring, when CAPCom is wrapping up. Joy met with David and he would really like to see Swarthmore take a leadership role in sustainability. He has a sense of urgency about the issue and he's incredibly well connected. It's a lot of work to organize a teach-in but he could help us get headliner speakers for panel discussions. It's something to put on the table. Eric said that this is a fabulous opportunity. He had heard David bring it up years ago, so it's been on his mind for a while. Eric said he would volunteer to lead organizing such an event.

Eric then responded to Joy's comment about SusCom. He said that having CAPCom and ENVS more involved is a good thing. SusCom has veered away from academics because it has been so focused on operations. He said he would love to reengage faculty members. Carr said that for the next meeting he had invited Betsy Bolton to come speak. She has ideas about academics. He agrees that we have focused on physical plant, and maybe it's time to diversify.

Joy said she had a long conversation with Betsy and there was so much going on in SusCom that Betsy didn't know about. With Peter Collings it was clear that he knew a lot we didn't. Joy said she thinks there should be a spot reserved for the Environmental Studies Chair on SusCom. Carr said I can give them a standing invitation but we can't force them to come. Joy said at least they should read the minutes and be included in emails. Carr said this was fine. Nadine said Alison Holliday is on the committee this year, and with Carr, that's two faculty members from ENVS on the committee.

Nadine then seconded Eric's offer to organize the teach-in. She also said when we know for sure that we are going to do this it would be a good idea to approach student groups to see if they would be willing to take some leadership.

Nicole asked what exactly is a teach-in? How is it different from a conference? Joy answered that a conference is mostly lectures where people go and listen. A teach-in is more participatory. There is an agenda and people have discussions.

Deb asked who will pay the expenses and how much would they be?

Carr said he would write to David Gelber and say that we are interested and get his thoughts about funding. He would also talk to Rebecca Chopp about kicking off the event. Joy suggested that Nadine and Eric open the conversation with David since they will be leading the organizing. Then they can copy Carr. Eric said he will meet with Joy about it.

Nicole asked whether the teach-in would be for the college community or be open to the public. Joy said that we can get very big names, and make it open to the public. Joy also said an alternative suggestion to doing the teach-in next Spring would be to do it next Fall, when it would coincide with the presidential election. It's not about endorsing a specific candidate as much as to make sustainability and global climate change an issue for the campaign.

Carr introduced Mark Davis who talked about electronics recycling at the college.

Mark said he manages the replacement of computers on campus each year. The computers are on a four-year cycle where one third of them get replaced each year. The replaced ones get either donated or recycled. Mark received suggestions from Ralph of additional recycling vendors this year. He chose one based on who gave the highest bid for the reusable computers. ITS also went with a different vendor who recycles computers that can no longer be reused. The vendor takes used printers and peripherals as well. Mark needs to find out what procedures the vendor uses to recycle the electronics and to make sure that the methods are environmentally sound. Basically we get revenue from vendors who take our reusable computers and we pay vendors to recycle unusable computers.

Clara asked if there is outreach to students and staff about electronic recycling. Mark said he would find out. Joy said that the town accepts used computers for free. The collection takes place at Rosetree Park in October. Mark said our computers need to be wiped 2 or 3 times before they can be donated; same with the printers that have harddrives in them.

Carr asked if default settings for printers can be applied globally or does ITS have to go around and set them individually? Mark said that he builds the desktop image loads and the computers are all set to the same default, such as printing in duplex. Printers in every dorm are also set to duplex.

Clara asked about whether we can put signs on computers reminding people to print less or shut down computers after use. Mark said power management on the computers is automatic, but an awareness campaign about paper usage would be good.

Carr asked about signage around campus regarding sustainability. What would that look like and how would it be most effective? Mark answered that facilities puts up signs but people don't always read them. Joy said it would be good to remind people about their responsibilities in the spaces they use. People are in the habit of not turning lights off or putting chairs back where they belong after they use a room. Clara suggested that the signs be uniform in appearance with a logo or mascot so that people recognize it as a sustainability message wherever they see the logo. Mark said that this would be a very good idea.

Clara gave an update on CAPCom. The committee will have its first meeting on Thursday October 6. The agenda will be an introduction to why the college is doing a Climate Action Plan, how will the committee go about it, an overview of the college's greenhouse gas emissions and current initiatives, and a discussion about the committee's goals and roles. Ralph Thayer, Rachel Mertz , and Clara Fang will take turns facilitating the meeting.

Cameron gave an update on Swat EcoSphere. The student umbrella environmental organization met for the first time last week. Clara Fang and Peter Collings gave updates on SusCom and Environmental Studies. The group discussed its purpose and administrative items. The first EcoSphere Digest also came out last week which contains an overview of all environmentally related announcements for that week.

Clara mentioned that she met with Mountain Justice this week. They were interested in talking to SusCom about their campaign for the college to divest investments from companies that engage in mountain top removal. Would SusCom like to issue an invitation to them? The group said that they would be open to hearing from them at a future meeting.

Mark said that certain schools have changed the default font for their computers because certain fonts save ink when printed, Times New Roman for example. Clara said that she read Microsoft changed its default font from Times New Roman to Calibri a few years ago because Calibri is easier to read on the screen, even though it uses more ink when printed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Celia Foster and Clara Fang.

\*\*\* Future planned meetings of the Sustainability Committee \*\*\*

Monday, October 17, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room  
Monday, November 7, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room  
Thursday, November 10, 2011, 8:30-9:30 am, Sharples Room 4  
Friday, November 18, 2011, 2-3 pm, Lang Center Seminar Room (106)  
Monday, November 21, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room  
Thursday, December 1, 2011, 8:30-9:30, Sharples Room 4  
Monday, December 5, 2011, 11:30-12:30, Lang Center Keith Room