

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes  
04/20/08

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room  
Presiding: Dave Lococo, Kathleen Smythe  
Present: Chris Barbour, George Farnsworth, Pickett Harrington, Annette Marksberry, Doug Olberding, Greg Schaber, Brett Simmons, Vanessa Strickley  
Not present: Steve Cobb, Caroline Richardson, and Samantha Thomeczek

Next Meetings: June 10, 8:30 a.m., Physical Plant Large Conference Room  
July 15, 7:30 a.m., Physical Plant Large Conference Room  
August 19, 8:30 a.m., Physical Plant Large Conference Room

The first order of business was to determine a procedure for recording minutes. It was agreed that each member of the committee would take a turn as secretary responsible for minutes. Doug Olberding volunteered to be first.

Following brief introductions of committee members in attendance, minutes from the 4/29 meeting were distributed and approved. Dave Lococo and Kathy Smyth mentioned that the work of this committee is important and considerable. While we cannot expand the size of the committee, we can bring in other members of the University community with expertise in related areas to work on subcommittees.

### **Review of Documents**

The report of *The President's Climate Committee* (November 27, 2007) was discussed. While the benchmark school has done considerable advanced work in this area we are not to be discouraged. We are a different institution with different strengths, resources and students; hence our focus will be different.

### **Authority of the Committee/Portal Announcement**

Discussion ensued about ways to announce the committee to the broader Xavier community. Along with portal announcements, the committee will explore using Manresa, the Xavier Newsletter, Literature at X-perience and PREP Days, and looking at student clubs.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All members of the committee should think of organizations and groups on campus whose interest may intersect with the work of the committee. Forward the names of these groups/organizations along with contact information to Dave Lococo or Kathleen Smythe.

### **Timeline for action**

The timeline for action as specified in American Colleges & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUCPP) was discussed. Some of the discussion centered on the addition of food to the list of greenhouse gas emissions inventory. Issues regarding the sampling of the University with respect of commuting and air travel were discussed as

well. We also discussed bringing in Dick Pulskamp to help with data collection and analysis and the possibility of establishing “green” interns or work study students to support our work, and Environmental Studies Fellows.

We also discussed in details items 2a through 2b of the ACUCPP agreement. It was noted that the university has already begun to move on a) the LEEDS silver standard for new construction, b) purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances, and g) participation in RECYCLEMANIA. Thus, in “taking two or more tangible action” we should focus on items 2c, d, & f and target “low hanging fruit” such as the Metro student/faculty ID program which NKU and UC have already adopted.

During this time, we also discussed taking 10 minutes during each meeting to share resource that we have found to be helpful with the group. We also discussed inviting others with expertise to speak with the committee about their experiences with ACUCPP.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Invite Mary McGruder (sp?) from the University of Cincinnati to speak to our group.

### **Subcommittee Assignments**

After some discussion of charge, members of the committee were asked to pick a subcommittee on which to work based on their interest and expertise.

Alternative Funding – Pickett Harrington, tba

GHG emissions team – Dave Lococo, Steve Cobb, invite Dick Pulskamp and Dan McLoughlin

Institutional plan – George Farnsworth, Annette Marksberry, Samantha Thomescek, Kathleen Smythe

Tangible actions – Chris Barbour, Vanessa Strickley, Brett Simmons, Doug Olberding

Communications – Greg Schaber, tba

It was also decided that a “sub” Sub committee would be formed headed by Brett Simmons which would be made up of Xavier students. This group would work under the Tangible actions subcommittee and be charged with collecting suggestions/input from the broader student population.

### **Other business**

Greg Schaber presented a website template and discussed trying to develop a web presence for this effort that would be both fun and informative. Suggestions of current effective university websites were offered including Harvard University and Oberlin College.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Greg asked that each member of the committee review the template and forward comments to him so that this project can move forward.

### **Subcommittee reports**

For the remainder of the meeting the group broke down into subcommittees to be developing action plans. Each sub committee reported to the full committee at the conclusion of the meeting.

#### *Institutional plan*

- Investigate what other Jesuit Schools are doing in this area. Specifically, what are the target dates, goals and the percentage of their plan emission reductions v. carbon offsets?
- Obtain a copy of the LEEDS point system and begin to establish priorities
- Help to break down tangible action (items 2c, d, f) into goals.

#### *Tangible Goals*

- Form the student “sub” sub committee near the start of the 2008/09 school year.
- Check on status progress in 2b Energy Star purchases (Dan Schlomer)
- Investigate Metro ID rider program at UC and NKU.
- Work with Kathleen Smythe to reach out to Peter Bycio to begin discussions of putting in place a mechanism for supporting climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where Xavier’s endowment is invested.

#### *GHG Emissions Team*

- Update, aggregate and automate current data.
- Investigate the cost/effort to implement a proper metering system to collect utility data.

#### *Funding Sources*

- Investigate how funding has been used to support this kind of work at other institutions.
- What is the mix of funding (public, private, and foundation grants)?

#### *Communications*

- Compile statistics for the website
- Collect input from committee members and research other institutional websites.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Olberding