

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes  
8/19/2008

Location: Physical Plant Conference Room  
Presiding: Dave Lococo, Kathleen Smythe  
Present: Kelly M. Akers, Steve Cobb, George Farnsworth, Pickett Harrington,  
Dave Lococo, Annette Marksberry, Chris Barbour, Brett Simmons,  
Kathleen Smythe, Greg Schaber

Next Meeting: September 9, 1:00 a.m., Physical Plant Large Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

- 1) Minute-taker: George Farnsworth
- 2) Minutes from 7/15/2008 were discussed. Steve proposed the change: we do have athletic travel data. Minutes were then approved
- 3) **Discussion items**
  - a. **McGrew's visit**
    - Kathleen encouraged committee feedback regarding UC's strategies to raise awareness of sustainability initiatives and involving students and other communities on campus.
    - Dave commented that McGrew's "process was no process", meaning she was accepting of everything.
    - Recalling the big chart that McGrew brought with her, the committee discussed producing promotional material like a brochure. Brett said the Tangible Action subcommittee could work on "packaging" everything going on around campus.
    - Greg mentioned the website is coming along and has generated creative excitement in marketing department. They are looking for great images to be included in the website.
    - Kathleen mentioned producing another Portal announcement just after the semester begins. Greg mentioned there are plans to begin a daily digest email announcement as a replacement for (or to augment) portal announcements. He mentioned people are not reading the Portal.
    - Steve noticed how much buy-in there was on UC's campus from so many groups. We need to encourage such involvement.
    - Kathleen suggested we include this need for promotion in the report to the president.
  - b. **Goals for December** – this discussion was tabled for next meeting
  - c. **Report for Mike & Roger by Sept-26 make that Sept. 19**
    - Dave and Kathleen explained committee will produce a "polished" 2-page report updating what committee has been doing and what challenges it faces. Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> is Founders Day, so we need to have report finished by Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.
    - Subcommittees should summarize their work briefly by next meeting (Sept. 9) and distribute before meeting if possible.
  - d. Office Depot Green Expo – Oct. 7 10-2 at Westchester Conference Center

- Dave wanted committee to be aware and attend if interested or encourage attendance of personnel responsible for purchasing.
  - e. Biodegradable bags
    - Dave relayed that Stacy Decker is seeking reliable information about which plastics are best amid all the marketing claims.
    - Steve said he would contact Dan McLaughlin in Chemistry. Dan has interest and expertise and indicated he would like to help committee
  - f. ERS Lectures
    - Kathleen passed around brochure announcing the ER/S lecture series focusing this year on Sustainability headlined by Robert Kennedy Jr. She said she will ask her co-chair if committee members can have tickets for Kennedy's lecture.
  - g. Rezhub.com
    - Dave passed around information about travel resource Rezhub that provides ratings for how "green" certain travel options are such as which hotels are more sustainably operated
  - h. Green roof
    - Dave [disappointedly] explained that plans for the new buildings have changed from including a "green roof" to now using a "white roof" which will provide the same thermal benefits, but will not retain water. He has asked Kathleen Simons to discuss it with SGA.
    - Kathleen said Mt. Saint Joe might be building a green roof and EPA building in Cincinnati has a green roof.
    - George asked if water from roof could be used in irrigation. Dave said it was too costly and provided only limited benefit.
- 4) Subcommittee discussions
- a. GHG inventory
    - Dave explained he now is getting data from the utilities that should be more easily used in the database for Clean Air Cool Planet system, but due to a changeover in computer system there is an Access Database SNAFU currently. Hopefully soon to be resolved.
    - Rob Munson has data on travel disbursements but not in an electronic form. Paper records would have to be processed. Maybe committee could request funds to have this done.
    - The Travel Authority has records, but not all faculty and staff use The Travel Authority. Dave said he asked for data for last 2 fiscal years
    - Steve suggested we try to cross-reference Travel Authority data with records from Dean's offices to attempt to "correct" for those not using Travel Authority.
    - Steve said he will also try to get data on adjunct faculty commuting
    - Kathleen asked if subcommittee was missing any pieces. Dave responded that commuting and utilities data are in good shape and if they can get reliable air travel information they will have what they need to use Clean Air Cool Planet system.
  - b. Institutional Action Plan
    - Annette said she is working on a purchasing policy with Dan Schloemer for fuel-efficient transportation (vehicle purchase and rental). There is a new electric car for post office.

- Annette would like to tie sustainability to the university's mission
  - Kathleen said Dan Schloemer has been great about purchasing decisions, but not enough is being done to reduce consumption
  - Residence Life has policies to encourage [or require] students to use Energy Star appliances in dorms
  - Brett mentioned that there is a culture among some students who feel they are paying so much for housing that they should deliberately use excess utilities just to stick it to "the man".
  - Dave said he would live to have metering for each dorm to facilitate competitions between dorms to reduce consumption.
- c. Tangible Action
- Chris reported that subcommittee was working on mapping bicycle racks and showers on campus to develop a resource for students and faculty/staff to encourage bicycle commuting.
  - Brett passed around the Project Description Form they developed to allow the committee to track all the different activities on campus with a sustainability focus. Dave suggested adding a date submitted tag to the form.
  - Kelly described results from a survey of off-campus students. About half of the respondents said they are interested in carpooling, but would like a benefit for doing so (like designated preferred parking)
  - Brett described the challenges of having a successful pilot program for METRO ridership. He mentioned the weather had to be good during the 6-week trial and there needs to be enough lead time to promote the program. He suggested that Spring semester is not ideal because the weather is so cold until late in semester after student travel habits have been established.
  - Annette said NKU is expanding their program from Kentucky's system to include Ohio's METRO system.
  - George, while believing it would be great, expressed his reservations that our students might be reluctant to use METRO. Work would have to be done to overcome this culture. Dave pointed out our campus is not really on many convenient bus routes.
  - Kathleen suggested we continue to collect data but probably not make plans to begin a program just yet. Hopefully in future.
- d. Student subcommittee
- Brett said he will recruit members for this subcommittee after students return to campus. He sees this subcommittee as being a sounding board for ideas and awareness of sustainability and to encourage cross-fostering between different student groups
  - Student proposals will be evaluated by tangible action subcommittee
  - He suggested taking interested student groups on trips (like to the coal-mining areas in Kentucky to see where coal comes from to produce our electricity). Greg and Steve suggested trips to other university campuses to see the energy and involvement of students (like Berea College). Brett said he will look into seed money to help fund trips.
  - Brett said he would like to talk to Alternative Breaks
- e. Funding subcommittee

- Pickett described the revolving loan fund
  - He also discussed involving the Development Office (Margaret O’Gorman) to help with faculty educational grants
  - Dave suggested funding be sought for specific construction designs that could lead to “direct LEEDS points”
- f. Communication subcommittee
- Greg said website is coming along. He hopes to debut it at the beginning of next meeting
  - Pickett suggested having a profile of someone who commutes by bicycle to help encourage others to bicycle.
- 5) Dave’s leftover topics
- a. Dave is looking into getting an article in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities magazine April issue
  - b. Chilled beams: a water-circulation method of heating & cooling is much more efficient than just forced air. Should be used in new construction.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,  
George Farnsworth