

President's Climate Commitment and Sustainability Committee
Meeting Report for February 28, 2012

In Attendance:

Scott Benjamin, Meghan Callaghan, John Chirichiello, Mike D'Entremont, Jeff Ginsberg, JoDe Levine, Carmen Magana, Ken Nies, Karalynn O'Rourke, Oscar Pena, Paul Righi, Indira Rakhimzyanova, Arlene Vallie, Paul Wolff

In Absentia:

Stephenson Aman, Henry Chu, Dawn Monahan, Venkat Rao, Shanay Reed, Les Warren

Invited Guests:

Leonilla Tellez-Valle (Student), Margo Attaya (Staff), Nicole Jennings (Staff), Scott Chase; Resource Optimization Consultant (Casella Waste Management, Beth Young; Education Coordinator (Casella Waste Management)

AGENDA ITEMS

1) Discussion on Single Stream Recycling

Presentation

Invited guests from Casella Waste Management (Scott Chase; Resource Optimization Consultant and Beth Young; Education Coordinator) gave a presentation on single-stream recycling. They explained the process and facilities located adjacent to the College which include the "Zero-sort" Recycling facility. They discussed how many cities and towns including Boston, Cambridge and Somerville and many schools such as Harvard University, Worcester State and Fitchburg State have adopted single stream recycling. As a result, each has realized a tangible increase in the amount of recycled materials.

Scott and Beth distributed a "Sustainability Report" to all members that outlines the company's sustainability work. They have reduced company-wide carbon footprint by 45%; a reduction of 901,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, among other things.

The BHCC Sustainability Club has worked with Casella Waste Management to arrange a tour of the Zero-sort facility on February 29, 2012 at 1:30pm. This is the 4th tour scheduled during the last year for BHCC faculty, staff and students. Only 4 PCCSC members had previously taken a tour (Paul Righi, John Chirichiello in 2009, Carmen Magana and Paul Wolff in 2011). Scott Chase indicated that the tour is a completely different experience than what was offered in 2009.



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Discussion

Karalynn O'Rourke asked about composting. Scott Chase discussed the Biogreen 360 organic waste system and an anaerobic digester they utilizes to recycle organic waste streams.

Scott Benjamin asked if the composting process was enzymatic and Scott Chase confirmed. He also indicated that emissions saved from composting could be used in reportage to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

Paul Wolff asked if Casella worked with any of the top 10 colleges noted on the Recycle Mania competition. They had worked with about half of these colleges and explained that each had realized a significant increase in recycled materials after adoption of single stream recycling process.

BHCC was ranked 18th among 25 Massachusetts based Colleges in 2011 for the *National Recyclemania* competition. **Paul Righi** confirmed that the rate had been consistent during the last several years at approximately 17%. The top school from 2011 (Massachusetts Maritime Academy) had a rate of over 60%.

Ken Nies explained that in New Hampshire, there are strict rules about what can be recycled, even though they have adopted single stream recycling. Scott Chase confirmed that these guidelines may vary from region to region.

2) Building Dashboard

Presentation

Margo Attaya reviewed feedback received from the user surveys distributed by PCCSC members since the last meeting. She also invited PCCSC members who have not provided feedback to complete surveys that she created by March 2, 2012. Feedback received includes the following:

- Many students and faculty do not know that the flat screen monitor used for the dashboard is a touch screen.
- Several complained that the chords that hang down from the monitor look bad and might be dangerous. Currently, the chords are wound around each other as seen below.



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- Some suggested including images of the G- Building when it was under construction as part of the history slides in the "G-Tour."
- Others suggested including more conservation tips that relate to the school. Currently most of the "Green Tips" relate to the residential homeowner.
- Some felt the dashboard was too low to be used conveniently and suggested that the College investigate purchasing an alternative bracket.

Discussion

Jeff Ginsberg agreed with the feedback received about the dangling electric chords and suggested that the electric and data drops be adjusted so they are behind the monitor. **Paul Righi** said that both the power outlet and the data outlet existed before the dashboard was installed and that any new changes would be "very challenging."

Jeff Ginsberg asked what the procedure was for adding additional buildings. **Paul Wolff** explained that according to Lucid Technologies, each new application must link separately to individual meters found in the given building. For example, if we want to add the B Building to the dashboard, we would need to link directly to the dedicated utility meters in the B Building and use a "Splitter" that converts the data to be viewed in the format seen on the building dashboard.

Paul Righi indicated that the height of the flat screen monitor could not be adjusted in any way because of ADA requirements.

Indira Rakhimzyanova said that she interviewed over 30 students and most agreed that they really liked the idea of the dashboard, but most were afraid to touch it because it looked so "precious." Many students suggested either creating a sign on the adjacent wall or an introductory screen on the dashboard that would explain the process for using it.

3) Student Projects

In response to suggestion by PCCSC member Mike D'Entremont to explore venues for sharing student work, a venue called the *Massachusetts School Sustainability Coordinators Roundtable* has been identified. This group sponsors an annual student convocation event designed to feature student sustainability projects.

This year's solicitations are due in early March and BHCC student Leonilla Tellez-Valle has agreed to submit an application for consideration. The potential topic is computer energy management at BHCC. Leonilla has been working with Paul Wolff to study and measure the amount of power used by computers and peripherals on campus. Leonilla gave a brief presentation of some of her work associated with this initiative to date.

Discussion

Ken Nies recommended working closely with the IT Department to coordinate the effort and determine next steps.

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ACTION ITEMS

- 1) **PCCSC Members** were reminded to bring someone to the building dashboard kiosk and ask the series of questions found on the "Interview Notes about the Touchscreen Dashboard" document.

PCCSC members (35%) who participated in the interview survey include: Meghan Callaghan, Mike D'Entremont, Jeff Ginsberg, Carmen Magana, Indira Rakhimzyanova, Les Warren and Paul Wolff

PCCSC members (65%) who have not participated in the interview survey include:
Stephenson Aman, Scott Benjamin, John Chirichiello, Henry Chu, JoDe Levine, Dawn Monahan, Ken Nies, Karalynn O'Rourke, Oscar Pena, Venkat Rao, Shanay Reed, Paul Righi, Arlene Vallie

Please send results to Margo Attaya by March 2, 2012. Your feedback is important and will be used to maximize the use of the building dashboard tool and to increase awareness of energy conservation strategies and sustainability best practices.

- 2) The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2012 1-2:15pm G139.