

Climate Commitment Committee Minutes

President's Climate Commitment Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

E175

1:00 – 2:00

Minutes Call to order and minutes from previous meeting were accepted.

Present:

- Co-chair Jeff Ginsberg (Fiscal Affairs and Central Services), Co-chair Joseph Steffano (Facilities Management)
- Members: Jesse Thompson (Executive VP & CFO), Charles Abasa-Nyarko (Academic Affairs), Weusi Tafawa (Controller), John Chirichiello (Facilities – Chelsea Campus), JoDe Lavine (Science), Y, Venkat Row (Mathematics), Weusi Tafawa (Business Office), Scott Benjamin (Science department), Paul Righi (Facilities Management), Libby Dunphy (Science Department), Chris Wilkins (Facilities)

The committee was first tasked with accepting the notes of the last meeting and they were accepted.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

The first report came from sub-committee chairperson Scott Benjamin. Scott reported that he has obtained some necessary data regarding numbers of faculty, vehicle use at the school but that more data directly related to the number of people commuting; distance commuted and form commuting is required. Joe Steffano suggested from his research that the committee might consider cross referencing the number of parking permits with zip codes to get an idea of the number of drivers and miles commuted. Getting the commuter survey data from Emily Dibble will also help to get an idea of the percentages of light rail, commuter rail, walkers and drivers to aid in making these calculations.

Joe asked when data could start being compiled. Scott reported that he has obtained the actual calculator spread sheet and that the data on fuel use that Joe has already compiled could begin to be entered into the spread sheet.

Chris Wilkins brought up the idea of the motor cycle classes taught at BHCC which lead to discussion about outside groups such as Boston Ski and Sport and if we need to provide information regarding those commutes to the school. Paul Righi suggested since they are not individual paying that they may not be part of the survey. It was agreed that the committee would make note of these groups, but proceed without including them until more information on the subject is gathered.

NEW BUILDING SUB COMMITTEE

Joe Steffano reported that the building is still on schedule. Jesse Thompson added that demolition has been pushed up and will begin on June 8th.

RECYCLING

Paul Righi reported that the blue recycle bins have been put out in key areas around the school. They are not working that well at the moment. Instead of just bottles and cans people are depositing other trash. The committee suggested more signage (although the bins are already clearly labeled). Paul hypothesized that the open top of the recycling containers was an easier disposal route than the push door trash cans and this is why so much trash was being deposited in them. Joe Steffano suggested that in one selected area that the trash bin be left open as well to see if that would cause more people to use the trash cans for trash and the recyclers for bottles and cans. Paul will set up the experiment on the third floor near the bookstore.

Paul also reported that paper recycling will be piloted in a few classrooms. If the pilot is successful then classroom recycling of paper will be school wide.

John Chirichiello reported on recycling efforts at Chelsea campus.

- Paper recycling continues
- Card board is being cut up and delivered to Charlestown campus
- Bottles and cans also brought to Charlestown campus
- John collect all batteries and brings them to Charlestown campus for recycling as well

TEMPERATURE SURVEY

Jeff reported that a final draft of the survey is now complete. He will email it out to committee members for review and begin the survey.

Chris Wilkins reported on a study from Ithaca college that stated by establishing set point temperatures (the motive behind the BHCC temperature survey) will save the college over \$120,000 a year.

Energy Star Vending Machines

Chris also reported that now there are many Energy Star rated vending machines that might be beneficial to our climate commitment. Jeff Ginsberg will follow up with Rich Pishkin to see how we might include Energy Star vending machines in any of our vendor contracts. It was also suggested that we look and see if ATM machines are also now Energy Star.

Solar Panels

Jeff and Joe reported on a new initiative by the governor to provide funds for solar panel on state buildings. Joe has applied and was contacted by a solar study group but after Joe's initial contact the group as not replied. Paul provided literature from another solar study group working on grant money that might be worth contacting related to this matter. The committee agreed that we should pursue this initiative as it might help forward our goals.

Light Switches

Joe reported on a re-commissioning study that was done regarding lighting a BHCC. Joe will now meet with NSTAR to learn how much in rebate the school would get for updating lighting (switches and fixtures).

Web Cast Related to Climate Commitment

Jeff Ginsberg has signed up for web-cast program that discusses procedures and practices associated with the Climate Commitment. He is making the web-cast available to anyone on the committee who wishes to view the program.

Green Electricity Program

Joe Steffano reported on a new contract for electricity supplied to BHCC. The new contract will supply three years of 100% green electricity at a rate lower than other companies investigated. This company will also offer a sponsorship program where if BHCC employees sign up for 100% green energy (for a fee of \$10.mo.) – the school will receive a portion of those costs.

Meeting Time

The next meeting will again meet on a Wednesday afternoon at 1:00pm. Jeff will email with the specific date.