

President's Climate Commitment and Sustainability Committee
Meeting Report for October 2, 2012

In Attendance:

Scott Benjamin, Meghan Callaghan John Chirichiello, Mike D'Entremont, Ibrahim Diarra, Jeff Ginsberg, Karalynn Gau, George Locascio JoDe Levine, Dawn Monahan Oscar Pena, Paul Righi, Arlene Vallie Les Warren, Rob Whitman, Paul Wolff

Invited Guests:

Venkat Rao (Faculty), Vaness Shannon (Interim Dean of Chelsea Campus)

In Absentia:

Henry Chu, Carmen Magana, Valter Gomes, Ken Nies

AGENDA ITEMS

1) Updates

BHCC Energy Design/Build Project Update

Director of Sustainability Paul J. Wolff III provided an update on the \$4 million Design/Build project; a collaboration with the Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) which includes the implementation of numerous energy conservation measures such as variable speed drives, lighting retrofits, new boilers, occupancy sensors, and new electric centrifugal chillers. Solar panels are also scheduled to be installed on the G-Building within the next few weeks as part of the scope of this project.

Paul has been monitoring the associated energy savings with this project and reported that the College's work to reduce emissions has achieved measureable results. For example, gas usage is reduced by over 76% (16,289 BTUs) during the period from August 2011 through August 2012. In addition, electric usage is reduced by approximately 17% in buildings A, B, C, D (75,410 kWh) during the same period according to data obtained from the Enterprise Energy Management System (EEMS). He also reported that as of September 28, 2012, the College has received approximately \$211,000 in utility rebate incentives from the utility company NSTAR.

2) Student Presentation by George Locascio

George LoCascio, Co-President of the BHCC Sustainability Club, presented a summary of his volunteer work this summer at Las Casas de la Selva, a "rainforest enrichment project" located in Puerto Rico. He learned about sustainable forestry practices and studied the impacts on the Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).

3) Subcommittee Work

Members selected one of four subcommittees and discussed ideas and goals for the 2012-2013 academic year. Summaries are below:

Subcommittee 1: Composting

A list of what we're working on between now and November's meeting:

- Contacting Bob Steeper and Kim Frashure to learn more about the Urban Garden Composting box (Karalynn)

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- Reaching out to Silvia and Marybeth of FAME to learn about what (if any?) composting is being done, and gain reaction to potential composting as part of food services and catered events at the College (Meghan)
- Researching campus composting efforts at other institutions in the state, region, and nation (Everyone)

Potential Goals for 2012-13:

- Fall 2012: Research the composting efforts of other large, public campuses in the state, region, and nation. Determine a list of detailed questions to have answered by our top five comparison campuses and gather that information. Summarize this information and determine feasibility for our campus.
- Spring 2013: If composting on a larger scale is determined feasible, purchase units and enable processes needed to complete three target events with food (or a day at FAME) to increase campus awareness of composting and gauge community reactions.

Subcommittee 2: Alternative Fuel Sources

Goals for sustainable fuels group

1. Research into wind turbine feasibility including review of existing report, get "siting" information from Schraft wind turbine, connecting/engaging an interest group on campus (LCS?)
2. Research into bikes in the gym creating usable energy.

Other topics discussed:

- alternative fuel/cooking oil/using biodiesel
- new solar panels that are going up
- revolving doors to create energy

Subcommittee 3: Renewable Energy Sources

Strengths of Subcommittee Members

Richard felt he is good at research/researching renewable energy sources. Venkat identified that he was interested in sharing information about turbine and solar panel energy. JoDe said that it was within her means to work with students to erect or replicate a mini turbine and finally I believe my strength is dissemination and social networking/sharing. Based on our strengths I believe we can complete our goals tapping into this base. Paul said he enjoys developing creative ways to present materials or research.

Tentative Goals:

- Create Awareness Campaign for Solar Panel installation or other renewable energy sources and launch during the 2012-2013 Academic Year.
- Develop Hands-on Demonstrations of various renewable energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal etc.) to help educate the campus community.

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Subcommittee 4: Zero Waste

The goal for our committee is to create ways for our college to move toward Zero Waste.

- Need to educate our faculty, staff and students to inform and educate them on recycling
- Place information in our student handbook,
- Pass information to faculty and staff at convocation
- Meet with Student Activities to inform and educate our students
- Mandate or suggest faculty, in their first class, to inform and teach students about the importance of recycling
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We are also looking into how Harvard and Mass Maritime execute their excellent recycling program. We really haven't had too much time to communicate so if anybody would like to add to this, please do so. Thank you.

4) Action Items

- PCCSC subcommittee members will identify goals for the Academic Year and begin their individual work in advance of the next meeting.
- The next meeting of the President's Climate and Sustainability Committee is scheduled for November 6, 2012 in Room G139.