

## DU Sustainability Council

*Meeting Minutes: June 5, 2008 – DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building*

**Present:** Fred Cheever, Lisa Dale, Mike Keables, Rebecca Powell, Buddy Knox, Charlie Coggeshall, Jeff Bemelen, Richard Chapman, Linda Kosten, Craig Woody, Gregg Kvistad, Jim Moran, Chris MacMillan.

**Guests:** Mary Jean O'Malley, Student; Karl French, Office of Sponsored Programs; Tay Dunklee and Libby Cronin, Students and Environmental Living and Learning Community; David White, Facilities Management; Gary Alexander, Sturm Law Library; Skip Spensley, University College faculty; Wendy Vernon-Dzaman, Student, The Women's College Law and Society Organization; Jay Pearlman, Sightlines.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 3, 2008, DuPont Room, Mary Reed Building. Light refreshments will be served.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Fred Cheever asked for introductions around the table.

### **Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion by Mike Keables, seconded by Jim Moran to accept the minutes of May 1. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Report on the Conference “Creating a Culture of Sustainability” – Linda Kosten, Lisa Dale, Charlie Coggeshall**

Linda said the conference was very good and had 50-60 attendees, with a strong showing from Colorado as well as the northwest and –east. There were presenters from such institutions as Harvard, CU-Boulder, University of California system, Oberlin and Middlebury. There was a great deal of information that will be disseminated to various committees and also posted on the Portfolio and/or website. There were opportunities for networking and partnering. For example, it would be good to invite Dave Newport from CU-Boulder to attend a Sustainability Council meeting to share what his campus is doing. CU is focusing on the social aspect of the triple bottom line. The conference itself focused on the greenhouse gas inventory (and an explanation of the Scope 1, 2 and 3 model) and on staffing for sustainability. Some institutions have hired sustainability practitioners who end up operating in a vacuum. It is better to have the structure evolve from the work of the Sustainability Council and the DU community.

Lisa reported on the curricular aspects of the conference. She explained what institutions are doing with consultants, similar to Sightlines, and with staff. Linda Cogan (UCCS) and the Colorado Springs Community have some good programs.

The attendees will disseminate the conference information once it is available. There is an opportunity to continue working with Academic Impressions (AI) in the future. Heather from AI is a GSIS graduate and she wants to work closely with DU. The attendees also obtained a list of schools which have completed their action plans and they should be contacted and reviewed. The California system is especially far along in its planning.

### **The New Website – Karl French**

Karl reported that the launch date is still set for June 30. He is working on the content and invited members to submit content and links by June 19. He reviewed some of the current content. The site will have a contact form that will be sent to a dedicated e-mail account. Someone will need to monitor that account regularly. The calendar of events will be an important part of the site and it needs to be kept robust and current. There was some discussion about the sustainability logo that Karl has designed, which has been approved by Jim Good in OCM. There was agreement to have OCM review it again. There was also discussion about having a link on the DU home page to the sustainability page and whether major

sustainability events can be featured on the DU home page. The DU site is being redesigned and there is an effort to keep the home page from being too cluttered with links. However, Gregg said he would make sure that sustainability is figured into the design deliberations. There were comments on linking articles on “green” to and from the sustainability website and also the need to keep the site fresh through regular updates. Committees will be responsible for keeping their areas current.

### **Bike to Work Day – June 25 – Buddy Knox**

Buddy Knox said that Transportation Solutions contacted DU about bike to work day to see if we can have booths and provide giveaways. There were suggestions to suspend bike citations that day for non-approved locks (except for bikes chained to railings and handicapped areas), to provide a bike corral in a visible place on campus, to have a story about it on the website, and to pull in the DU cycling team and club for support. The goal of the day is to raise awareness and hopefully change behavior in the long-run. We need to address issues such as providing more bike parking and showers/changing areas.

### **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory - Jeff Bemelen, Jay Pearlman (Sightlines)**

Jeff Bemelen reminded the Council that Facilities Management has contracted with Sightlines to develop the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Jay Pearlman is on campus this week to work with his staff on a preliminary report and Jeff asked him to provide an overview of the inventory.

Jay gave a PowerPoint presentation on the GHG Inventory. He first explained the definition of emissions using Scopes 1-3. The President’s Commission (PCC) concentrates on Scope 1, 2 and the part of 3 that involves daily transportation to and from campus and airline miles related to the university (we are not “responsible” for student trips to and from their permanent homes). It is more difficult to collect data on Scope 3 than on the others. Scope 1 and 2 must be quantified in the inventory and Scope 3 to the extent possible. Institutions must develop a plan to collect Scope 3 data not currently available. The methodology for calculating emissions is continually evolving. Jay said that his company uses the Clean Air Cool Planet calculator.

He then reviewed DU’s footprint by scope. The largest consumption is purchased electricity. We buy 57,000 metric tons of “carbon,” offset it with around 4,631 MT (FY06), leaving a net consumption of 42,654 MT. He described “offsets” as buying something that will improve emissions elsewhere. RECs are a commodity that can be bought and sold for profit. DU restricts its purchase of RECs to exclusive “green” offsets. Jeff said that our offsets now equal about 30% of our total consumption. Jay said there are debates about what kind of offsets are the best. It is better to reduce gross consumption but offsets are required to reach goals.

There was discussion about data on Scope 3. The data on commuting by Transportation Solutions is pretty comprehensive. The survey will be done again this year. Some organizations are tracking commuting through GIS systems and also using it in carpooling efforts.

Jay then reviewed how DU compared to fifteen other schools whose data is collected in a consistent manner. This group tends to be less complex than DU. DU is below average for metric tons per student. DU is at the average based on metric tons per square foot of campus area. Jeff commented that we hope to auger in measures of efficiency of use, such as KWH/SF and MMBTU/SF.

There was concern expressed about the inherent problems of comparing data between institutions. Sightlines has data on 210 schools available online (website goes live July 1 and will be available to member organizations – DU has about six licenses). At that point, the site will be able to stream graphs into our own website. Fred asked Jeff and Jay to figure out what aspects of the Sightlines website should be lined to or on the DU website.

Jeff commented on the benefit of being part of a large cohort for consistency of data collection and reporting. Jay commented that AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) is developing a web-based form to report data to the PCC and Sightlines is working with them for consistency.

Craig asked how the average person on campus can relate these large data sets to their own behavior on campus. For example, does keeping building temperatures at a higher or lower set point (thus affecting individual comfort) really make a difference in energy savings? He said we need to publicize the impacts to the community. It was suggested that student competitions to save energy have resulted in dollar savings at DU and other institutions.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Outreach Committee – Richard Chapman**

Richard asked for volunteers to sit at the Farmer's Market on Old South Pearl Street on weekends from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. to talk about going green.

#### **Facilities, Design and Construction Committee – Julie Sutor**

Jeff reported that Mark Rodgers is continuing to work on design standards for new and renovated buildings. They should be completed by fall. Julie Sutor is working on behavioral aspects of reducing consumption. He noted that we have been adding square footage on campus but consumption has held steady or declined due to behavior changes, lighting retrofits (e.g., Hamilton Gym) and other measures. He said he will make a report next fall on the trends over the past seven years.

#### **Transportation Committee – Buddy Knox**

Buddy attended the recent Parking Institute conference, which focused on green. He said he brought back lots of good ideas, such as wind and photovoltaics installations in parking garages.

He commented on the Enterprise car-sharing program, "We Car," which is being piloted at several institutions. Parking Services is going to establish "low emissions" parking spaces, which might be expanded to Nagel and contributes to LEED points. He is also working on a brochure "Surviving DU without a Car," which will be widely distributed to students and the DU community. He said one measure that would cut emissions is raising the parking permit rate. However, a balance must exist between sustainability and service. He said that van pools don't seem to work except on very large campuses and car pools are not popular, although a GIS approach can help.

#### **Curriculum and Research Committee – Mike Keables**

Mike Keables reported that the committee is continuing to inventory the curriculum. The committee has created a Portfolio site and will be conducting an online survey of faculty on sustainability in the curriculum and research, which will be done by July 31.

#### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Committee – Charlie Coggeshall**

*Composting Report* – Libby Cronin and Tay Dunklee, students from the Environmental Living and Learning Community, gave a report on composting. A group has been working all year on the feasibility of DU purchasing "Earth Tubs" to compost food waste and other organic materials on campus. They are proposing the purchase of two tubs to be located at a cafeteria and near the Ritchie Center. They said the tubs would reduce the waste stream and save about \$1,000 per year on soil purchases. They have worked with Facilities (David Snyder and Brett Erickson) on the location and operation. Students have been surveyed. The results are that 70% of students are aware of composting and 100% are willing to scrape food into bins. Jeff Bemelen commented on the requirement to permit the tubs with the City and also

issues of odor and rodent control. He said we need to conduct due diligence on all the impacts. Fred Cheever suggested that the RRR Committee with Facilities Management meet over the summer to work out the details.

*Recycling Report – Mary Jean O’Malley*

The recycling proposal has been approved by the Sustainability Council. Mary Jean said is the most tangible project we can do. The Committee will continue to meet via e-mail over the summer. They are working with CU-Boulder on green purchasing. The Committee asked that people send comments on the recycling proposal and other matters to them.

Gregg commented that a faculty member collected each DU-wide hard copy communication for a quarter. There were 51 pieces of mail, which extrapolates to 450,000 pieces of paper for the DU community. He suggested that the RRR committee might want to work on reducing this stream. Karl reported that this year’s research report was distributed on CD, which saved 50% of the cost of printing. He said he knows a vendor that burns CDs if anyone was interested.

**Best Practices Committee – Becky Powell**

Becky said that she would include information about best practices on the website and asked that committee chairs also submit information to Karl. The committee is researching the AASHE rating system on sustainability, called STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System), which will be similar to the LEEDS rating system. STARS is in beta version now and should be released January 2009. DU will be able to choose what it wants to track to meet our goals. The e-mail link is <http://www.aashe.org/stars/>.

**New Member Selection – Fred Cheever**

Fred said that there is currently one vacancy in the staff membership. Three applications have been received, from Karl French, Stefani May and Tiffany Hutchings. The vote will be done through the Portfolio and instructions will be provided via e-mail.

There are 24 applications from students. There is one current vacancy and one vacancy after August. The student members are responsible for selecting their representatives and should do so over the summer.

**Meeting Dates**

The Council will meet over the summer on Thursday, July 3 and Thursday, August 7, from 8:30 – 10 a.m. Members should let Fred know if these dates do not work for them. The location will be the DuPont Room. Fred said the summer meetings should focus on planning and visioning more so than on Council business.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.