

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2012

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Kristin Altman, Andrew Bishop, Christy Cerrone, Fred Cheever, Ethan Crawford, Cara DiEnno, Mollie Doerner, Tay Dunklee, Sharon Gabel, Brenda Goates, Tiffany Hutchings, Megan Kelly, Don Mayer, Alex Mehn, Jess Morton, Andy Reger, Dale Rothman, Saskia Sawyer, Vanessa Schoenecker, Scott Schrage, Chase Squires, Thomas Walker, Brittany Wilhelm, Sara Dietz, Gary Brower, Kostas Alexion, Bo Saunders, Lindsey Reese, Costen Aytes, Jon Dyer, David Akerson, Stephen Budlong, Rachel Ramberg

Next meeting:

I. Call to Order and Delayed Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes (Fred Cheever)

Fred called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked for the meeting minutes from February be approved, and the Council approved them.

II. Introductions (Fred Cheever)

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for self-introductions. There were several new faces, including DU grad students, Chaplain Gary Brower, and two visitors from NAROPA.

Fred announced that Chad King, the new sustainability director, will be visiting DU on March 13-18. Anyone interested in a formal or informal meeting with him can contact Fred.

III. Vice Chair Report (Christy Cerrone)

Christy announced that an Earth Month calendar is being drafted for April. She passed a draft of the calendar around for anyone who has an event to include on it. A finalized copy will be posted on DU's green site.

Christy also reported that Andy (?) attended the Vail Global Energy Summit. We hope to hear a report from him.

Molly announced that DU's Earth Day Summit is scheduled for April 20th. The keynote speaker will be the famous photographer, John Fielder. The Outreach Committee will sponsor a mixer on that day (about 1:30-3:00ish). Desserts, hot chocolate and coffee will be the sustenance for the mixer.

IV. Sustainability and the Presidential Debate (Chase Squires)

Chase reported that he spoke with a representative from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Institutional Partnerships (Winter Wall, known as "The Debate Czar")

about the upcoming presidential debate slated to take place on the DU campus. Ms. Wall assured Chase that the goal is to stage the debate in the most sustainable way possible. In fact, the plan is to emulate the Democratic National Convention's green practices that took place in Denver in the last election year.

Chase recommended the following to the Sustainability Council:

- Look into providing volunteers to sort waste and recyclables during the debates
- Light rail and I-25 may experience periodic shut-downs during the debates to accommodate VIPs. Be proactive about making arrangements to car pool, as parking on campus will be strained.

V. University College Sustainability Alliance (Vanessa Schoenecker)

Vanessa briefly explained that the University College Sustainability Alliance is a group of grad students in the Environmental Policy and Management program. They invite everyone to happy hour at Boone's near DU on Friday, March 9 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

VI. Daniels Business School Water Use Review (Lindsey Reese)

Lindsey described a project to monitor the water use in the Daniels College of Business building. She said that, starting with the bathroom faucets, there is much to improve. Her committee is working with Tom McGee to gain data needed to work toward AASHE star rating. They brought in Denver Water staff to make assessments of water use. Because all water use, whether it's from bathroom faucets, toilets, or irrigation of the grounds, flows through only one meter, they hope to separately monitor water use through sub-meters in the future. Tom McGee said that sub-meters are expensive, and because water in Denver is still relatively cheap, sub-metering the water in Daniels is lower on Facilities' priority list (underneath working toward saving money on electricity and gas usage).

The committee does hope to move forward with installing aerators on the bathroom faucets on the first floor (upper floors don't have enough water pressure for this) to moderate water use. Lindsey reports that at \$4 apiece, aerators in sink faucets will save 25-30,000 gallons of water per year. In addition to that, low-flow toilets will be installed in the bathrooms to further decrease water usage.

Lindsey's committee looked into waterless urinals, but there were some legal issues with that. However, some reported that waterless urinals are installed on the campus of CU Boulder, so hope floats.

When Lindsey's committee reports their findings, they hope that a best practices model can be shared with the rest of the campus. Fred asked her to include in her report some questions that would engage the reader to start thinking about their own environmental impact, e.g.: "What questions should you ask about where your water comes from?"

VII. Bike to Work Day/Month (Ethan Crawford)

Ethan explained the distinction between DU's Transportation Center and "Transportation Solutions," an organization based in Cherry Creek that was given a grant to work with the DU community. Bike to Work Day is an event run by Transportation Solutions. Alex Mehn is the Transportation Solutions liaison, and he asked for committee members to help distribute posters and volunteer for Bike to Work Day. He asked for ideas to encourage DU to bike to work – not just for a day, but for a week and even a month. He asked for ideas for prizes, incentives and contests.

VIII. Sustainability Educators (Sharon Gabel)

Sharon announced a Sustainability Educators "kickoff event" on March 28. This will be a meeting for the purpose of defining goals, generating ideas, implementing a student audit check list, forming a green office panel.

Saskia Sawyer presented to the Council a draft of a Faculty and Staff Handbook for office use on campus. She hopes to develop a comprehensive list of green and sustainable resources for faculty and staff to use when making purchasing and process decisions. Saskia hopes to institute a yearly Green Office Award, and to recruit a "Green Office Educator" from each office to participate in a liaison program. On Tuesday, March 27 at 3:00 p.m. the first meeting for Green Office Educators is scheduled. This meeting will be used to distribute the handbooks, and have a forum.

IX. Solar Initiative (Mike Sickinger)

Mike Sickinger explained his rationale for an initiative to implement solar-powered energy on campus. He argued that a small solar-powered system could save two tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, and that this alone would be worth the money spent. He accedes that there are issues with shade and rooftop support around campus. Tom McGee said that Facilities has already been looking at the roof on Driscoll, which isn't a feasible place to put solar panels because of the slippery slope of the copper tiles. Access for maintenance is a problem there, too. Tom said that the payback on solar doesn't happen until ten to fifteen years out, and that Facilities is focusing on projects with a less than five year payback for now.

Andrew Bishop said that it would be ideal to install a small, but "visible" system for students and visitors to see. It would serve as a symbol of DU's commitment to a greener future, as well as inspiration to those who have considered installing solar power for their own homes someday. Andrew said that the Office of Advancement has already given them permission to raise funds towards this end. Suggestions from the Council were to install a small system that could power:

- Electric cars
- Kiosks

- New branding signage that the Marketing and Communications Office will be installing prior to the presidential debates (The Board of Trustees has already agreed to pay for mini solar panels for this signage)

The Sustainability Council voted in support of the solar-powered signage at DU.

X. Committee Reports

A. Website and Outreach (Brittany Wilhelm, Kristin Altman)

Brittany and Kristin reported that the Furniture Sharing program is up and running, and successful far beyond their expectations. They mentioned that it is difficult to keep the Web site updated in pace with the speed that Facilities is moving furniture out of storage.

Kristin suggested that the Sustainability Council Web page be further subdivided once the office of the new director is set up.

The DU Sustainability Calendar on the Web has the technology that allows anyone on the Council the ability to upload an event to it. Brittany reminded Council committee chairs to send her their updates and news for Web page.

B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Committee (Megan Marshall)

Megan displayed a poster she made that has samples of what can be recycled glued onto it, as well as what can NOT be recycled. These real-life visuals go a long way of making recycling clear to those who don't yet understand it, or have difficulty discerning between a coffee cup and a piece of paper. This poster board can be checked out by anyone on campus to show to their home units. A sign-up sheet for poster reservation was passed around.

C. Social Sustainability Committee (Cara DiEnno)

Cara said that her committee met last Friday, and they decided on their identity and mission. They have divided into two subcommittees: 1) Environmental Justice Committee, and 2) Individual & Community Social Sustainability Committee. She announced that on May 18, the Social Justice Living & Learning Community will have a symposium. Ask Cara for details on that.

Cara wants to recruit volunteers for a ½ day service project with Denver Parks. They need 30 people to help plant trees. She hopes to advertise to students and faculty on the Sustainability listserv.

D. Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee (Megan Kelly)

Megan reported that it's hard to schedule meetings for when everyone can meet, and that they are making slow but sure progress on an assessment of "good" food sources.

E. Facilities (Tom McGee)

Tom McGee reported:

- Vending machine misers – installation underway for 53 vending machines on campus.
- Centennial Towers motion sensors – installation underway.
- Smart Grid Study: Acquiring the hardware for sub-metering Olin
- Ice Chiller remodel in Ritchie Center should produce lots of energy savings
- Conducting an energy analysis in Sturm Hall

F. Transportation (Ethan Crawford)

There are a handful of people at DU who drive electric cars who have inquired about a re-charging station. Ethan says the parking director won't support a charging station because he thinks it would cost \$10,000. No one knows where the director got that figure from. The Sustainability Council feels that an electrical outlet near a parking space would cost far less than that, and would be willing to help fund it.

Ethan is happy that "Sky Ride" – subsidized transportation to the airport for DU students and full-time staff – is getting more advertisement.

Plans for Earth Month are underway. A flat tire clinic, a Sharrow Ride each Thursday night in April, and Bike to Work Month are under discussion. DU's Risk Management Office will make it next to impossible to allow the Sharrow Ride to be under the aegis of DU, so it would have to happen spontaneously.

Ryan McCann, program fellow for Transportation Solutions, and a law school student, is working on a report on DU's bike infrastructure.

G. Education and Research (Don Mayer)

Don Mayer is the new committee chair. He will try to bring faculty together to discuss sustainability in DU's curricula.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned shortly before 10:00 a.m.