

## DU Sustainability Council

### Meeting Minutes

**November 10, 2011**

**Members, University Representatives and Guests Present:** *Gabriel Aponte, Andrew Bishop, Nick Bohnenkamp, Rebecca Cales, Christy Cerrone, Fred Cheever, Ethan Crawford, Cara DiEnno, Tay Dunklee, Brenda Goates, Michael Harris, Emma Howard, Nikki Jackson, Sam Kauffman, Megan Kelly, Linda Kosten, Chris MacMillan, Jane Maurer, Stefani May, Don Mayer, Ryan McCann, Tom McGee, Jess Morton, Tiffany Myers, Jacaranda Palmateer, Shelley Popke, Daniel Powell, Martin Quigley, Saskia Sawyer, Scott Schrage, Mike Sickinger, Brian Smith, Chase Squires, Laurie Strong, Ben turner, Nicole Vilegi, Thomas Walker, Brittany Wilhelm,*

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 8, 8:30 – 10 a.m., Driscoll Student Center Room 1880

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

Fred called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for approval of the minutes. There was a motion by Linda Kosten, seconded by Jess Morton, to approve the minutes of October 13, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

He asked if this time and day seemed to work for most people. There were no comments. He said that we will find a room to meet for the rest of the year that will be centrally located and easily accessible.

#### **II. Introductions (Fred Cheever)**

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for self-introductions. There were about 35 people in attendance.

#### **III. Vice Chair Report (Christy Cerrone)**

Christy reported on two topics:

- A. The JMac Energy Star celebration took place last month. There was a representative from EPA in attendance. We have submitted the accomplishment to AASHE, which will hopefully include it in its bulletin. She encouraged everyone to sign up to receive the AASHE bulletin.
- B. AASHE Conference – We did not have anyone attend the conference this year. The proceedings are now on You Tube.

Fred commented that AASHE has a fantastic website with many ideas we can pursue if interested.

#### **IV. Sustainability Coordinator Search (Fred Cheever)**

Fred reminded the Council that he is chairing the search for the new position of Sustainability Coordinator. There is a broad-based search committee in place, including faculty, staff and students. 115 applications were received and the posting was closed on November 1. The committee is reviewing applications. He will schedule interviews as

soon as possible. He encouraged anyone who has input on an applicant to let him know. The search committee will provide opportunities for others to be involved in the selection process. The goal is to have the new person at the Council meeting in January. Linda Kosten commented that the winter break impacts how much people can be involved. They will look at using technology such as Skype for people to participate. Jane Maurer suggested using Adobe Connect web conferencing system. Fred said he would keep people apprised via the Green Listserv. He also offered to share the job description upon request.

#### **V. Employee Education Program for Sustainability (Sawyer, Wilhelm)**

Saskia Sawyer made a report on this initiative. She said that Brittany and Sharon had talked about having an education program for staff at the last meeting and they met this week to discuss how it might work. They reviewed what is offered already, surfaced ideas and came up with a proposed timeline. She said that DU's Skillsoft online system offers courses on sustainability. DU offers a number of sustainability-related options, such as ECO passes, B-cycle, We Car, and the Sustainability Council and Center. This topic has been added to the orientation for new employees. Some other ideas raised are:

- Developing a "Green Office" course
- Educating people on how to reduce energy consumption, low water/light office plants, purchasing green products, transportation options, etc.
- Designating "Green Educators" in each unit. Sustainability Council members would be likely candidates for this role.
- Expand or publicize the Green Awards that have been presented in Sustainability Council the past two years. Perhaps these could be highlighted at the annual staff picnic and DU Convocation.
- Continue to build the website and also have links to it from Human Resources, the SAC and other areas.
- Discuss at the Human Resources Liaison meetings

Saskia said they were primarily interested in receiving feedback today on the Green Office course and whether or not this initiative makes sense in general. There were comments as follows:

- Linda Kosten said we need more education about the green purchasing policy, single stream recycling, office supply swapping possibilities and organic food ordering.
- Chris MacMillan suggested adding Pete's List to the education topics, once it is reactivated, and also to stress double-sided printing.
- Brenda Goates said that we need to eliminate mass distribution of hard copy fliers around campus because other, better options exist.

- Thomas Walker suggested having two sessions, one which focuses on what every employee should know and do and another which is aimed at decision makers (e.g., staff who make purchases)
- Tom McGee suggested creating a screen saver that contains tips about sustainability.
- Chase agreed to follow up on using the DU app in some way to publicize “green.”
- Linda said it would be good to announce the Green Awards at the picnic and perhaps add a staff sustainability award, but Convocation is too long already.

Brittany Wilhelm asked that anyone with further suggestions send them to her at [Brittany.Wilhelm@du.edu](mailto:Brittany.Wilhelm@du.edu).

## **VI. Sustainability in Advancement (Wilhelm)**

Brittany Wilhelm said that Kristin Altman and she realized that many donors are interested in the area of sustainability and might appreciate the option of donating to sustainability initiatives. They met with other University Advancement staff and they were receptive to championing the concept. Some ways we can leverage this are: (1) engaging the people who have an inclination to give in our sustainability efforts, (2) put it in the annual fund list of options, (3) identify major donors who have a passion for it. We do need to decide where these donations would be directed. Suggestions included the following:

- Naming opportunity for the Sustainability Center
- More trees on campus
- Renovation of the ice systems at the Ritchie Center
- Perma gardens
- Smart Grid system
- “Selling” photovoltaic cells at \$1/each (similar to selling bricks)
- “Adopt a...” model where there is not a tangible return (similar to adopting a star)

Linda commented that it will be difficult to get DU approval to start a fundraising campaign associated with solar. Scott Schrage said DU will not support anything that does make financial sense and have a reasonable payback period. With solar, the payback is longer than the life of the equipment. He added that the Smart Grid project needs funding in order to keep going. Tom McGee estimated the need at \$60,000 for research and evaluation.

Fred said that we will charge the new sustainability coordinator with revising the 2009 strategic plan, which will allow us to articulate priorities and enable us to earmark some projects for annual giving funds. He asked everyone to submit suggestions to Brittany.

## **VII. Committee Reports (Chairs)**

### **A. Website and Outreach (Brittany Wilhelm)**

---

DU Sustainability Council  
[www.du.edu/green](http://www.du.edu/green) | [www.portfolio.du.edu/sustainability](http://www.portfolio.du.edu/sustainability)

Brittany said the committee had not met since the last Council meeting. Their goal is to get the furniture-sharing system implemented during winter quarter. They will need to inventory the P-3 storage building and then market the system. It will probably be managed by Kristin on the green website.

Brenda asked if we could organize an annual “garage sale” to get rid of excess items. Brittany said that the residence halls do something like that now. She said they would check with the Controller about doing it university-wide. Jess asked if office supplies could be added to the swapping program. Brittany said it might be possible in the future but they are trying to stay with larger, high quality items at first.

Chase Squires said that the Presidential Debate provides a great opportunity for DU to go with a zero waste campaign, similar to what CU does at sporting events. He asked if there was general support from the Sustainability Council for this direction and there was. Rebecca Cales suggested checking with the coordinators of the 2008 DNC event for ideas. Sam Kaufman said that students from Greek Life would be happy to volunteer to man recycle bins and so on. Chase asked everyone to send him ideas.

#### B. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Committee (Jess Morton)

Jess reported that Keith Miller’s seminar students are doing a campaign about food waste. They will be weighing all compost materials in the dining venues. Linda pointed out that a great deal of waste is from kitchen preparation and should be separated from student waste. Thomas Walker cautioned about being sensitive to how waste is measured so negative issues aren’t created (e.g., students feeling like targets for eating too much). Scott Schrage said that there needs to be education about the composting bins; Fred said that contaminated bins are one of the biggest issues to solve.

Sam Kaufman asked if food leftovers were donated. Scott said that Sodexo has a program but it is subject to many health code restrictions.

Mike Sickinger reported that National Recycling Week will be recognized on campus on Tuesday, November 15. There will be a table on the bridge and he asked for volunteers.

The RRR committee is looking for new members.

#### C. Social Sustainability Committee (Cara DiEnno, Mike Harris)

Cara said that they are still trying to get a meeting time that works. So far, they have had low attendance. One of their first goals is to complete an inventory of social sustainability initiatives on campus. They also want to post meetings of related organizations. They are in the early stages of planning a sustainable justice series.

Mike Harris said they are vetting the mission/vision statement for the committee. It needs to be broad. Environmental justice is an important aspect of it. He said there are a

lot of social sustainability groups working toward the general well-being of underserved populations but that we need more voices. He said that we need to move from awareness to teaching and learning to taking action in these areas. He asked everyone to get involved.

He also reported on a four-day advocate training he attended, sponsored by the People's Environmental Network in Berkeley. He said it was a fabulous experience and he would share information about it. He said we need to bring in folks from outside the DU community to learn what others are doing.

Linda suggested that the committee look at the courses that are listed in the AASHE inventory as there were many in this area. Mike said they will want an inventory of courses as well as faculty expertise and student work.

D. Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee (Emma Howard and Megan Kelly)  
Megan Kelly reported on Food Day in October. They received 70 signatures for the Real Food Challenge and photo competition. The results will be posted on the website and Face Book. Ira Simon from Sodexo will start attending the meetings in January. The committee will assess where we stand on food practices and policies and begin drafting a sustainable food purchasing policy, which may contain a commitment to use 20% "real food" by 2020.

She also reported that they are discussing a partnership with Slow Food Denver. The display of books on sustainable agriculture is on display in Driscoll. There will be a link on the green website to the bibliography. She also pointed out that Tiny Footprints coffee is brewing at today's meeting. She asked that any feedback on the coffee be emailed to her or Emma Howard. Emma said the company is based in Minnesota and is free trade, organic and negative carbon footprint.

Emma also reported on the Campus Student Dining Advising Committee. Nori and Ira attend from Sodexo. There was low attendance at the first meeting. The next meeting is January 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 p.m. The committee is making a push for organic food from local farms. The C-stores will also be stocking bulk snacks that reduce packaging waste.

Megan said the committee is meeting the first Thursday of each month in the Counseling Center.

E. Facilities (Tom McGee)

Tom McGee said the committee met on November 2. At the next meeting, they will be discussing the revision to the Land Use Plan and everyone is invited. He reported on several projects as follows:

- Towers Lighting – There was great response to the sensor pilot and so they will be asking for bids for the other 17 floors.

- Vending machine misers – Undergraduate student government has agreed to fund \$8,000 to install energy misers in 53 vending machines. DU has applied for \$8,000 additional funding to make this project happen.
- Sightlines – The consultant is completing the Greenhouse Gas calculation for FY2011. It should be available in January 2012 and the green website will have a link to Sightlines.
- Academic Office Annex – The last T12 retrofit will be completed in this building.
- As of September 2011, overall electrical consumption is down 4%, partly attributable to Penrose being offline.

Fred emphasized the importance of the Land Use Plan in driving all of our decisions. The current effort is a five-year update.

#### F. Transportation (Ethan Crawford)

Ethan Crawford said that he and others would report on the B-cycle, We Car and sharrows. He said that the DU Travel Survey is underway and will provide data on how we travel to and from campus. He encouraged everyone to complete it. Rebecca Cales said that there are 450 responses to date but not many of those are from faculty and staff. The survey closes November 18. She will be sharing the results with various groups.

Several people offered to help get the word out to the community about the survey to drive higher response rates.

Rebecca added that a contractor has been hired to install the sharrows on High Street during November and December. There will be a bike “happy hour” to celebrate.

Marty Martin gave a status report on We Car. He introduced Jeff Billings, who is a DU alumnus who manages the Enterprise office closest to the campus. He said there are now 71 members and 31 more applications are pending. The goal is to reach 100 members by December 31. There are 21 current reservations on the book. He said that Kenny Reiser, the We Car intern, is on the Driscoll Bridge every Wednesday to raise awareness. The number of cars assigned to DU will be determined by the number of members. The ratio is 60 members per car and the average usage is 2 hours per member per month. He said they planned to attend the Sustainability Council meetings each month. He said they are very excited about the program and its strong start.

Ben Turner from Denver B-cycle said that there are 228 annual memberships in the system. DU has had low performance but since September 1 the Buchtel and High station is doing better. Nagel is still in 44<sup>th</sup> place.

Nick Bohnenkamp said that most of the stations are located downtown and Cherry Creek. It has become clear that we don’t need three stations at DU as there is not much

intra-campus usage. In order to increase productivity, the proposal is to move a station from Nagel to Washington Park. South High School has agreed to provide a location but no funding. It will cost \$10,000 to move the station. B-cycle is requesting that DU fund \$2,500 and re-purpose the existing concrete pad at Nagel to avoid demolition costs. He asked for a point person on the funding and said that they need a response by November 22. Sam Kaufman said that the Undergraduate Sustainability Committee may be able to fund \$2,500 and Scott Schrage said that Facilities did not have an objection to keeping the pad in place at Nagel. Nick and Sam agreed to discuss further next week.

G. Education and Research (Fred Cheever)

Fred said that we finally have a person who is willing to serve as the chair of the Education and Research Committee, namely, Don Mayer, a faculty member from the Daniels College. He introduced Don.

H. Best Practices (Tiffany Hutchings)

Due to time limitations, there was no report from the Best Practices Committee.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.