

Minutes

August 29, 2014, 10:30 – 12:00
301 Administrative Services III

Attending

Jack Colby, Dick Bernhard, Tracy Dixon, Rebekah Dunstan, Elizabeth McGowan, Paul McConocha., Meghan Lobsinger, Analis Fulghum., Carla Davis, Eric Rizzo, Garnett Bullock., Bill Winner, Charles Brown, Michael Ousdahl, Tom Skolnicki, Jeff Hightower, Keith Smith, Terry Allen, Blain Woods, Barbara Doll, Michael Harwood, Tom Karches, Robert Davis, Kristen Vickers, Barry Olson, Lisa Maune, Walt Robinson

Welcome back & introductions – Jack and Bill

Introductions around the table

Share CEST structure and appointments process – Jack

Jack: Provided a brief history of CEST and overview of appointed membership. We have made a lot of progress with our community/institutional approach to sustainability. We are proud that we are engaging the whole NC State community. We want everyone to be familiar with the NC State Sustainability website where guiding documents are available. We are in year 4 of the 5 year Sustainability Strategic plan and we will be talking about our process for closing out the first 5 years of our plan and the vision for the next 5 years. It is an exciting time to celebrate what we have accomplished and to be looking to the future.

Bill: The CEST has several important outcomes including the greenhouse gas inventory, the Sustainability Plan, the Climate Neutrality Plan and the Sustainability Policy.

Meet a NC State Steward - Garnett Bullock

Resident of the Eco Village and is an NC State Steward. Interested in agriculture during high school but was not entirely sure of career goals. Took a year off to travel and live on organic farms in Oregon and California. Learned a lot about sustainability during this year. This helped him realize he wanted to go to NC State. He is an environmental engineering major. Excited about Stewards this year and working with likeminded people. Inspired by all the sustainability groups around campus. He is part of the Steward's energy group planning energy competitions this year. They want to get all the residence halls involved in competitions and energy conservation.

Robert Davis: Tracy came to the Staff Senate Diversity Committee meeting. She made a connection between sustainability and diversity. He attended a faculty member's presentation on wetlands that further brought attention to how sustainability and diversity have overlap. Environmental matters should be thinks that everyone is concerned about. He would love to see more conversation about how to see people from the community invested in the topic. It is all of our jobs to help people understand how important environmental issues are.

Walt: Relating to energy in residence halls, what about guidelines for bringing in personal mini refrigerators. Is Housing doing anything to help with this energy consumption?

Barry: Yes. Housing purchases energy efficient fridge/microwave for residence halls so residents don't bring in aging, inefficient models.

Jack: High efficiency washing machines and dryers have also been implemented.

Walt: Many offices on campuses have kitchens that are using very old and inefficient microwaves. Is there a way to address this?

Jack: Current funding mechanisms don't allow for these types of purchases for office use so what results is older models. Need incentives to go the right way. Vending machines are also huge consumers. We look for vendors that use LED lights and proper cooling.

Jeff: Has anyone talked about water consumption increasing?

Jack: Yes, campus saw an increase this year and looking at more information on why and how to have in a decreasing pattern. Raleigh water rates are going up.

Tom: Does the university have a conversation with city of Raleigh about increasing water rate even as our consumption decreases?

Jack: We are continuing to see the rate escalation and this is an ongoing conversation by NC State as well as many other City customers.

Bill: Is the metric the total volume of water or something else?

Paul: Water use per gross square foot.

Bill: It might not be student/faculty water use, it could be new space that requires more heating/cooling.

Jack: Over a quarter of water goes to cooling towers. One of the items we are targeting is connecting to the city reuse water supply on Centennial Campus to help with water reuse in cooling towers.

Tom K: Have residence halls switched to low flow toilets?

Barry: low flow toilets have been installed in all residence halls along with low flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Those modifications made about 28% of water reduction plus an additional 6% reduction from student behavior.

Share year 4 tactics – Bill & working group chairs

Bill: Share 2 most challenging tactics

Tracy, Community & Culture: Implementation of Sustainability Standard Operating Procedures. Going around to key departments and talking about next steps. Planning ahead and laying the groundwork for what the strategic plan looks like next.

Paul, Energy & Water: Energy: Purchased utilities. Water is raising as greatest rate and it is our opportunity. Want to come up with tactic for irrigation on campus. Utility plants now capturing rainwater. We will continue to look for these opportunities.

Blain, Purchasing: Some of the most challenging activities are coming up with a list of commodities for which life cycle cost can be used as an evaluation for purchasing. It is a challenge to get people to look at the long term given our one-year funding cycle. Promoting wolf copy multi functional devices and decreasing individual printers.

Analís, Waste Reduction: Closing the loop on organics and bringing them back to campus. Grounds Management is fully on board for purchasing material from Brooks composting and bringing composting to campus. Feasibility study on a digester on campus. Preparing for how to achieve the 60-65% diversion rate. We have always reported previous years numbers to DENR . Base numbers go down but so does paper recycling. Would like to do a waste characterization study to help us find out what areas on campus we need to work on.

Lisa, Building: Developing a small project specification and details to put on drawings that would be a standard sheet. This will cover Centennial Campus building as well. Trying to create strategies that can be applied consistently cross campus. Use maps to identify sustainability features on campus. Want to communicate to the students what is happening with new buildings.

Tom S: putting more signage out on campus is not sustainable as they have a 5-10 year life expectancy.

Lisa: Would like temporary signs at worksites. Just figuring out how to communicate the thought process and goals of process to students.

Bill: a well thought out sustainability tour would be wonderful.

Tracy and Tom: Working to incorporate features such as sustainability as a GIS layer on the university map.

Tom, Land Use: Space utilization in tagging people to space so better understand space options. This goes across multiple colleges and departments. Room number changes and door changes have to be constantly updated. Working with with other departments to get a storm water master plan. Talking about revising the metric that is currently percentage of students living on campus. With Wolf Ridge open and the housing projected to be stable, evaluating if the proper metric might include local housing.

Michael, Transportation: Serving as interim Transportation chair due to retirement of Brian O'Sullivan and will be working to get in place. A few in mind are growing the Wolfline fleet and managing travel demand between main and centennial campus. Transportation's new director, Cathy Reeves is interested in commuter incentives. Expanding the reach for student alternative commuters. Students made up 60% of go pass, staff/faculty the rest.

Walt: working with NC State's relocating services is crucial to ensuring options nearby campus instead of in further out suburbs.

Bill, Academics & Research: Opportunity to get academic leaders together once a month to determine how academic programming can accelerate sustainability on campus. Continuing to develop the metrics for how we support sustainability. For students, engaging the Eco Village and involving them in projects. We have a great opportunity of almost 90 students. They are interested in projects. We are beginning to look at a transition to eBooks.

SOP next steps – Jack

- Moved to next meeting

Call for future agenda items – Tracy

- Will be done electronically

July Energy Summit update – Jack

- Move to next meeting

Round table updates – All

- University Dining's All Carolina's Meal is September 2.
- The Annual Sustainability Report is aiming to publish by early October and includes a letter from Chancellor Woodson.
- Oct. 15 is Campus Sustainability Day and will feature the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Showcase from 10-1, in partnership with Staff Senate
- Second year Eco Villagers are looking for Capstone Projects on campus. We are looking for faculty members that need help with research or projects. Interesting faculty members please contact Meghan.

12:00 Adjourn

Information Items

Next meeting: Oct. 3

Standing meetings are Fridays at 10:30 every 4-6 weeks