

Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Friday, September 6, 2013

10:00 AM

Merkert Tracy 250

MINUTES

Attendees: Lauren Amundson, Craig Binney, Kaylie Bissonnette, Bruce Boyer, Deb Carpenter, Nicole Casper, Kim Cordeiro, Jessa Gagne, Jen Heine, Devin Ingersoll, Shayla Jordan, Kristen Kearney, Jessica Lantos, Tom McGrath, Bridget Meigs, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer, Maura Tyrrell, Nick Wilder and Greg Wolfe

The meeting started at 10:00 AM in the Merkert-Tracy Conference Room.

In Sue Mooney's absence, Craig volunteered to lead the meeting. To begin the first meeting of the new year, all attendees introduced themselves.

1. Meeting minutes for April 18 were approved.
2. Sustainability Fair – Greg suggested that the Fair be held indoors this fall and be organized with a student's perspective in mind, having student groups' displays along the hallway. There was discussion around whether it should be coordinated with the 10/4 Feast of St. Francis, or 10/23 Sustainability Day, or 10/24 Food Day.

Bridget and Kim offered to begin organizing the Fair, with assistance from student and staff volunteers. To allow for sufficient planning, future September fair dates should be put on the campus calendar well ahead of time.

3. Meet jointly with all student groups - Craig mentioned the need for the leadership from all student environmental groups to get together. Devin indicated that a meeting is arranged for Monday, September 9 at noon in Commons A. The goals of the meeting are to get to know one another, choose initiatives to focus on for the new year, and set a date for the Sustainability Fair. The groups should be reminded of the availability of the Green Fund.
4. Green Tips - Volunteers for the monthly Green Tips are as follows: September – Bruce Boyer, October – Kelly Treseler, November – Cheryl Schnitzer, December – Jessa Gagne, January – Nicole Casper, February – Shayla Jordan, March – Maura Tyrrell.

Please email your Tip to Deb (dacarpenter@stonehill.edu) for mid-month campus distribution.

5. Green Kits - Approximately 700 kits were delivered to residence halls for the incoming class of 2017. Per Jessa, this project was put together very efficiently by students as part of last spring's Eco-Rep class and led by Sara Boukdad '15. Kit items included a recycling bin, a green to-go container, a hot & cold drink tumbler, a purple hand towel, laundry detergent pods, a reusable shopping bag, a pen & notebook and a pamphlet on how to be more eco-friendly on campus (copy attached). These items were either donated by our vendors, thanks to Greg, or were

purchased with money from the College's Green Fund. Kaylie indicated that the kits seemed well received by the freshmen.

Greg suggested that planning for the kit should begin earlier to allow for more ideas and to include more items. Cups donated by WB Mason arrived too late so will be distributed separately, possibly at the Fair.

It was mentioned that two blue recycle bins per dorm room may be over-kill and that the College should provide one bin per room and remain in the rooms from year to year.

6. Green Fund – \$10,000 is available again this year. The application, which is available on the *Stonehill Goes Green* website at <http://www.stonehill.edu/offices-services/stonehill-goes-green> can either be submitted online or emailed to Jessa at jgagne@stonehill.edu for review by Jessa, Maura and Devin. This fund is available for initiatives by the entire Stonehill community. Last year all applications were approved and most of the money was spent.
7. Stonehill-Goes-Green - Kaylie worked tirelessly on this website over the summer. Its primary purpose is to promote awareness of environmental issues as well as encourage environmentally friendly practices among students, faculty and staff.
8. Stop the Drop – Kristen Kearney suggested that campus water initiatives be done simultaneously, possibly in October. Operations will track water usage for September and October and Residence Life will award a prize to the residence hall area with largest decrease in use. Last year, the residents who lived in O'Hara selected to have two hand-dryer units installed in two bathrooms.
9. Tracking all college-wide sustainability efforts/events – Last year's annual report was distributed to the Committee via email. Over the summer Kaylie gathered a lot of data regarding sustainability on-campus in preparation for the FY14 report. ***Throughout the year, please email Craig or Deb with any sustainability efforts you are aware of,*** to be included in this year's report and eventually part of our ASSHE STARS survey process.

Committee members agreed there are many impressive initiatives in the FY13 annual report and that many members of our community are unaware. All Committee members need to assist in providing information about sustainability events for this report. It was suggested that Jen speak with the Marketing Department and that we should also reach out to Martin McGovern for suggestions.

Maura recommended we have the *Stonehill Goes Green* website as a *footer* on the monthly Green Tips announcement.

Greg suggested that in trying to create a culture of sustainability, we should distribute timely reminders about such initiatives as St. Francis Pledge, Stop the Drop, etc.

The ESC will consider creating a calendar that would coordinate all efforts.

10. Other business –

Our Princeton Review green rating went from a score of 73 in 2012 to a score of 84 in 2013. This latest score means that the College will be listed in Princeton's next edition of *Guide to Green Colleges* which will be published in the spring.

Jessica Lantos and Nick Wilder shared that the SEA is wrapping up the bike share program. This year's primary focus will be a divestment campaign, with support from Professors Dolgan and Mooney. First steps are to educate themselves and to possibly form a relationship with their counterparts at the University of Notre Dame.

Craig is scheduled to meet with Sierra Flanigan of EcoMotion on 9/30 at 9:00. She works with New England schools to develop and advance campus sustainability programs. At first glance, they seem fairly expensive but there may be grants available and she may have some interesting ideas. ***If interested in joining the meeting, please contact Craig.***







Maura reported that the Catholic Climate Covenant has prepared a program entitled *Melting Ice, Mending Creation: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change*, which includes a 40 minute video followed by discussion concerning the disappearing glaciers and the implications on humankind. This program is available to institutions and she believes that Stonehill should offer this as a merit point event, in coordination with Mission, environmental student groups and this committee, and possibly connecting it to another fall event.

As part of their increased focus on environmental sustainability and economic development, the Martin Faculty Fellows presented the controversial film *Food, Inc.* in the May Pavilion Tent on September 5th.

Bridget stated that the compost campaign is making progress. There are bins at the Commons and campus-wide. However, education for students, faculty and staff is still needed because some trash is being mixed with the compost at the Commons which results in the entire bin getting thrown out. A group of students is arranging an educational opportunity and will be giving away free ice cream for those participating. Despite the issues at the Commons, the students at Holy Cross Center are composting with very few issues. Bottom line: When in doubt, throw it out.

Bridget is taking her class to a single stream recycling facility in Avon on 9/16.

11. Future agenda items.

-  Review ESC name and membership
-  ESC/Sustainability website www.stonehill.edu/green
-  Sub-committees
-  Energy usage update & electric sub meters
-  St Francis Pledge
-  Upcoming Events

The Committee meeting commenced at 11:00 AM.