

Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2013

3:30 p.m.

Merkert Tracy 250

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Kaylie Bissonnette '14, Bruce Boyer, Katie Bryer '16, Deb Carpenter, Nicole Casper, Mike Ellis '16, Jessa Gagne, Devin Ingersoll '14, Shayla Jordan, Bridget Meigs, Sue Mooney, Paul Ricci, Kelly Treseler, Maura Tyrrell, and Greg Wolfe

The meeting started at 3:30 p.m. in the Merkert-Tracy Conference Room and was chaired by Prof. Susan Mooney.

1. Meeting minutes for September 6 were approved.
2. Sustainability Fair – Attendees seemed to enjoy the Fair, held on September 27th on the quad. Tremendous coordination by Bridget, Kim and all the other student and non-student volunteers made for a very successful event. The horseshoe layout worked very well. There were many more student groups than outside vendors, which is a very positive trend. While the pedal-powered band Melodeego is always a hit, their proximity to the display tables made it somewhat difficult to converse. A suggestion was made to have a collaboration of Stonehill musicians in the future.

Equal Exchange, a fair trade vendor, had an interesting display. We could potentially have their products in campus vending machines.

An SGA or Eco Rep student could be the coordinator for future Fairs. Or Fair coordination could be a senior environmental studies capstone project.

Going forward, the fall Sustainability Fairs will be held from 12:00 to 2:00 on the Friday before family weekend, reserving Alumni Hall for inclement weather. The spring fair is much more difficult to schedule due to various April holidays and spring weekend, but it should coincide with Earth Day. The spring 2014 fair is tentatively scheduled for **April 25th from 12:00 to 2:00**.

Bridget discussed the formation of the Green Execs group, made up of senior environmental group leaders, with the main purpose of communicating initiatives with one another. They intend to meet four times per year.

3. Reducing Paper Consumption – Greg is reviewing different paper sources and their sustainability methods (carbon footprint), FSC certified vs. recycled, cost, etc., which is a very tricky undertaking.

The library's paper usage is excessive. Print jobs get left behind, and people from off-campus come in to print personal documents for free. IT is researching print management products

(Pcounter, for example) which would allow not only wireless printing, but also a print release station for security and to avoid duplicate print jobs, drastically cutting down on print waste.

According to Xerox's statistics, students print approximately 200,000 pages per month, faculty are printing less black & white but more color, and administrators are printing their large jobs on-site more often now.

Greg is negotiating with Xerox on new equipment with print release stations and will be setting up three test centers this month.

There are several student groups working on ways to reduce paper usage.

4. Energy Usage Update – Jessa stated that the campus's electricity usage is down by 4% vs. last year, which is equal to a 4-day blackout. This is due to equipment rebates, more efficient lighting and reduced water flow (less water means less energy is required to heat the water).

Fifteen electric sub-meters are now online and available for all to view at <http://www.stonehill.edu/green> (Click on the blue box "Energy Dashboard"). The final five meters will be installed this fall: Sally Blair Ames, College Center, Duffy, Stanger and Flynn Hall.

We have had most of the new electric sub-meters for one year now, but we can't receive Energy Star recognition until 2014, as they are taking a year off from partnering with colleges while they collect better data.

5. Feast of St. Francis Program, *Melting Ice, Mending Creation* – Maura discussed this event, held on October 8th in conjunction with hundreds of other Catholic institutions. Developed by the Catholic Climate Covenant, this program included slides and a video as well as a facilitated discussion regarding the reality of climate change. Turnout was impressive, despite not being a merit point program, and the ensuing discussion was very thought-provoking. Many attendees signed up to take the St. Francis Pledge. Additionally, many signed up requesting to keep informed and become more involved in campus sustainability efforts. These people will be copied on our monthly ESC minutes. Many thanks to Fr. Lies and Amy Hanlon '16 for arranging the event.
6. Update on Publicity for Campus Sustainability Efforts – Sue mentioned that John Murphy of our Marketing Department will not be available to attend the ESC meetings but would like to be copied on the minutes in order to "help spread the word".

Sue also informed us that beginning with the class of 2017, Stonehill now offers a dual degree program consisting of a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a B.S. in Environmental Sciences.

7. *Organizational Analysis of Environmental Work Across Campus* – Food Politics LC students Katie Bryer '16 and Mike Ellis '16 discussed their photo essay project which will show how the Stonehill community handles its environmental initiatives.

8. Other Business –

Greg explained that Sodexo and the Real Food Challenge, the nation's largest student food justice organization, jointly announced an agreement that advances supply chain transparency on Sodexo-contracted campuses. The agreement puts in place a rigorous and comprehensive set of standards, which judges the social responsibility and sustainability of Sodexo's vendors and food producers. This is an extremely time-consuming undertaking for our dining services group. David Miller will be visiting Clark University to learn how they are handling the workload of providing labeling for all their food products.

As a side note, we are very pleased to have David Miller join the ESC. His food-related expertise will be very helpful.

Greg mentioned that Sodexo's popular and creative food server, Chris, has been moved to the vegetarian station and subsequently sales have increased in that area.

The Stop the Drop contest is ongoing for the month of October and has become quite competitive among residence halls. Contest results will be shared at the November 7th ESC meeting. It was re-affirmed that these types of activities need to be ongoing, or have several at a time, to aid in developing habits that last.

The Solar Field project (phase 1) has broken ground and is expected to produce power by mid-winter. Phase 2, installing panels on Pole Buildings 2 & 3, will produce enough power for the facilities buildings. A kiosk inside the Shields Science Center will display the solar field meters. Eventually, phase 3 will identify buildings on the main campus that are suitable for solar panels.

Nicole asked that student sustainability projects and presentations be sent to Archives, in electronic form if possible, but in any form is fine.

9. Upcoming Events –




On October 21st, the film "A Place at the Table" will be shown in the Martin Auditorium and will be open to the Brockton and Easton communities. This film explores food related issues including food insecurity in the United States, the relationship between hunger, poverty and obesity, barriers to food access, hunger and health, food assistance in America, and the role of schools. A discussion was held around how to reach out to the communities for public events such as this – Patch, Town Administrator's office, etc.

October 24th is Food Day, a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food. Stonehill will be hosting "Banana Split to Commit" while promoting fair trade initiatives.

Many Stonehill students and staff will be attending two upcoming conferences: *Power Shift 2013* is October 18-21 in Pittsburgh, PA and is focused on climate change. *Connecting for Change 2013* is October 25-27 in New Bedford. This conference is sponsored by the Marion Institute and centers around food and farming, health and healing, green business, indigenous knowledge, environmental and social justice, women and youth empowerment, spirituality and sustainability, all working to catalyze a movement to heal our world.

Bard College's *C2C Sustainability Leadership Workshop* will be held at Bentley University October 25-27. This workshop is offered to students who want high-impact careers in sustainable business and politics.

10. Future agenda items.

-  Welcome to David Miller, Dining Services
-  Stop the Drop results
-  Upcoming Events

The Committee meeting concluded at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting is November 7th at 3:30 in Merkert-Tracy 250.