



STONEHILL COLLEGE

Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Irish Studies Library

MINUTES

Attendees: Jenna Berkowitz '19, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Deb Carpenter, Nicole Casper, Erica Cordatos '19, Kim Cordeiro, Elizabeth Cronin '20, Doreen DelMonaco, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jessa Gagne, Michelle Guiney (Waste Management), Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Bridget Meigs, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer, Greg Wolfe

Excused: Craig Binney, Kathy Falcone, Paulo Fontes, Victoria Hassan '20, Patrick Keaney, Tom McGrath, Sue Mooney, Alecsandra Steele '19

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and was chaired by Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. Welcome to New Members - Cheryl began the meeting with an introduction for the new members.
2. Minutes for the April 24 meeting were approved.
3. Green 2Go Container Review – Thanks to all involved, including Kathleen Fitzgerald and Greg Wolfe, last semester's Green 2Go pilot was a success, reducing single-use container usage by 70%. At this time last year the dining commons had already sold 28,000 single-use containers; this year is has distributed just 2500. This abrupt shift in student behavior is very encouraging. The biggest challenge is getting students to return their containers. One suggestion is to place A-frame signage, reminding students to return their containers, at key locations such as on well-traveled paths and at res. halls. Facilities will provide the A-frames. A student's family print shop has offered to make the signs. In addition, Kathleen has a sign already made and on display in the Commons, which can be edited as needed.
4. Waste Reduction Committee Pilot Program – This sub-committee has decided to have a pilot program at Boland Hall, where a receptacle will be available for students to drop off their dirty containers and take a clip, using the honor system. Bob will provide a bin and arrange to have the used containers brought back to the Dining Commons during this pilot.
5. Real Food Commitment – Bridget provided a positive update regarding the 20% Real Food by 2020 initiative. The group's new student leadership is having great conversations with other institutions and getting new ideas. The College's data from last year is now being processed and the working group will be meeting regularly to continue the momentum.
6. Freshman Green Kit – Beth and other volunteers assembled approximately 675 kits for freshmen. The kits contained a reusable to-go container, Tide pods, Green 2Go clip, water bottle, hot mug and a handout explaining the container/clip process and how to get involved with the various environmental groups on campus. These kits were distributed to eight residence halls. Although this was not a part of the freshmen orientation this year, we are hopeful that it will be next year.

7. Weekly/Monthly Green Note – Greg would like to see us share information with the community on a regular basis, similar to the *Weekly Nutrition Note* email. Unfortunately, students are overwhelmed with emails, so social media may be a better method for reaching them. Beth suggested that monthly would be better than weekly and that Instagram might be the best approach. Chanel will check with Mike Shulansky about using the College’s Instagram account or having a *Stonehill Goes Green* account. Nicole pointed out that statistics are interesting to people. Maybe the messages could include Stonehill-related facts or offer a quick quiz. Bob can provide many facts on recycling. An ESC sub-committee was formed to coordinate these communications. Its members include Greg, Nicole, Beth, Cheryl, Erica, and Chanel.
8. Support for Meatless Mondays – Greg suggested that eating meatless once per week is the easiest thing that people can do to help make a difference. Kim will speak with Fr. Tony about offering a “green mass” and suggest that the community go meatless on Fridays in solidarity with the poor.

Cheryl would like to begin each ESC meeting with an ecumenical (for all faiths) prayer to establish the mindset for the meeting. Kim will ask for ideas from Fr. Tony.
9. Bike Share – This initiative has been worked on for many years, without success. Obstacles have included bicycle maintenance and liability concerns. Perhaps bikeshare programs are more appropriate for schools in urban environments. Nicole explained the Library’s *Library of Things* program where items such as games, bakeware, mixers, and graphic calculators can be borrowed. Nicole will discuss with Cheryl McGrath the idea of the Library of Things loaning out bicycles.
10. Upcoming Events

October 2 - This year’s Feast of St. Francis program will be held in May Hall and will follow the Catholic Climate Covenant’s program *Who is My Neighbor in a Climate-Threatened World?* The program will include a video and Q&A session.

October - SEA will be holding a fall pond clean up initiative in October.

October 30 – Next ESC meeting at 8:30 a.m. in Irish Studies.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.