



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Irish Studies Library

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Deb Carpenter, Erica Cordatos '19, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Gwyneth Gould '22, Michelle Guiney (Waste Management), Devin Kindred, Kathryn Larsen (Bay State Textiles), Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Bridget Meigs, Paul Ricci, Justin Sandler (Black Earth Compost), Jasmin Santos '22, Greg Wolfe

Excused: Nicole Casper, Kim Cordeiro, Doreen DelMonaco, Kathy Falcone, Patrick Keaney, Cheryl Schnitzer

The meeting commenced at 8:30 a.m. and was chaired by Greg Wolfe in Cheryl Schnitzer's absence.

1. Minutes for the October 30th meeting were approved.
2. Greg announced that Erica will be graduating from Stonehill this month. Thank you for all of your great ideas, work and enthusiasm. Best wishes!
3. Bay State Textiles School Box Program – Kathryn Larsen, Recycling Development Coordinator, presented her company's focus to spread awareness of the problem of unwanted textiles and to educate on acceptable items for textile recycling/reuse, while generating revenue for school communities.

The Massachusetts DEP reported that more than 520 million pounds of usable textiles (10% of our waste stream) were sent to landfills and incinerators in Massachusetts in the last year, of which 95% can be reused or recycled.

Bay State Textiles collects, bales and ships donated textiles globally to be re-used, creating jobs and providing affordable clothing in other parts of the world. Nearly 100% of the donated textiles are recycled: 45% as usable clothing, 20% as fiber conversion grade for new products and 30% as wiping cloth grade.

The Company partners with over 100 school districts in Massachusetts (Easton public schools has earned over \$700 since 2016), and are expanding to colleges, including Massasoit, Tufts, MIT and Wheaton College. Schools receive a payment of \$100/ton (5¢/pound). The College could utilize this as a community service program, as part of an economics or environmental program, or as a revenue stream for a student group. Erica stated that SEA and ENACTUS would definitely be on board with this program.

In reality there is probably not much money to be made for the College, but it would support a sustainability initiative and lower some trash collection costs, albeit very small.

Bob mentioned that lots of clothing is left unclaimed after students move out, which could all be recycled. Perhaps this could initiate a "campus clean out" initiative. The location of the box would be very important.

Craig will discuss further with Facilities; then possibly the Waste Reduction Sub-Committee could work on details as it is a primary goal for us to reduce landfill waste.

4. Black Earth Compost – Justin Sandler, Partner and Sales Manager, discussed his company's services of providing commercial and residential compost pickup as well as selling finished compost. They pick up both food waste and compostable waste, as well as textiles. Their mission is to get compostable/useful materials away from landfills and incinerators. They can pick up as much as is generated. Weekly commercial pickups are usually from 50 or 64 gallon barrels with a compostable liner for approximately \$12-15 per barrel.

They are able to produce a high-grade compost that is available for sale to farmers and gardeners.

Bridget questioned how they are able to sort the compost as we can only use pre-consumer waste. Black Earth definitely has a contamination threshold, but the pickups are sorted and separated. Although The Farm can only use pre-consumer waste, Black Earth Compost would be great for residence halls, etc. to be able to compost more items (post-consumer) and take these items out of the landfills.

It was discussed that Stonehill put lids on our compost bins in the Dining Commons to help promote "conscious composting". This should help to eliminate most contamination.

Compostable cutlery and containers were discussed. Many schools use 100% compostable products in their dining halls. One of Professor Mooney's classes found cornstarch-based products that do not cost much more than plastic. The only problem is that they begin to melt at 200 degrees, so they must be kept away from direct sunlight.

The State's Solid Waste Disposal Ban, put in place in 2014, applies to businesses and institutions disposing of one ton or more of food waste per week; therefore, reducing and diverting food waste from disposal is even more crucial.

Greg will discuss Black Earth Compost's services with Cheryl, Dining Services and Facilities, and report back.

5. Green 2Go – Michele reviewed the Green 2Go initiative. The purpose of last spring's pilot was to gauge interest. Due to its tremendous success, Green 2Go was in full swing with the start of the fall semester.

Erica, Gwyneth and Jasmin all mentioned that although usage of the green containers is way up, the clip exchange system remains an issue. Many students are stockpiling the containers in their rooms, and some containers have been thrown into the trash. It was also noted that many freshmen do not know about the clip exchange. Further communication and education is clearly needed.

Michelle's Green 2Go survey results shows that more clip exchange areas are desired – particularly in residence halls. Bob believes that residence hall pickups would require its own system and part-time position versus the current process of just putting the containers from Boland in the front seat of the truck.

Devin mentioned that at the start of Christmas break, RA's would be going from room to room to close windows and turn off lights. He will ask them to also remove green containers at that time. This collection would allow us to get a count – not perfect but will give us a good idea of usage.

Greg shared that through November of 2017, students had spent over \$38,000 on single-use containers, whereas through November of 2018, students had spent \$8300. This shows a substantial change in habit. Michelle pointed out that there are now 62,000 fewer containers in our landfills.

6. Other Business – Greg would like to have ESC members report on sustainability efforts in their respective departments. Bruce agreed to report on Facilities Management at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.