



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, John Duggan, Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Jill Gruskowski '21, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. **Welcome**

Cheryl welcomed everyone and began the meeting with a video featuring Shana Weber, Director of the Office of Sustainability at Princeton University. Shana discusses their 2019 Action Plan, and its seven pillars, that they are focusing on to work toward their goals.

<https://youtu.be/q8L53ahEyhk>

Cheryl stated that great work has been done here on campus, and she urged everyone to read our Sustainability Reports, which are located on Stonehill's *Sustainability* webpage. (These are also located in the ESC SharePoint folder.) It is imperative that we continue our work, and we need to make our goals clear.

#### 2. **Zoom Meeting Best Practices**

Utilize the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom (within the Participants window). Also, avoid using the "Chat" feature as we want to capture discussions in the meeting minutes.

#### 3. **Meeting Minutes**

February 25, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

#### 4. **ESC Sub-Committees**

Four sub-committees were formed last year, and progress was being made prior to the pandemic in March. The sub-committees include Communications & Marketing, Strategic Planning, Waste Reduction, and Real Food. At this time, it is very important that we add an Environmental Justice sub-committee. Everyone selected a sub-committee, then the groups went into Zoom breakout rooms to work on this year's goals.

▼ Breakout Room 1	Communications & Marketing
● Chanel Mazzone, Advancement	
● Deb Norton, Operations	
● Fr. Tim, FYE & Leadership	
● Greg Wolfe, Purchasing	
▼ Breakout Room 2	Strategic Planning
● Bruce Boyer - Facilities Management	
● Craig Binney, Operations	
● Jessa Gagne, Operations	
● Kim - Mission	
● Kristi Burkholder, Faculty, ENV Science	
▼ Breakout Room 3	Waste Reduction
● Bob MacEachern Facilities	
● Brittany Lorgeree, Campus Ministry	
● Michelle	
● Paul Ricci - FM	
▼ Breakout Room 4	Real Food
● Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, The Farm, she/her	
● Christian Castriotta, SGA	
● Lucy Almberg, student	
▼ Breakout Room 5	Environmental Justice
● Dave Griffin- Res Life	
● John Duggan, Business Administration	
● Louisa Rossel, Students for Environmental Action	
● Rob Rodgers, Political Science	
● Jill Gruskowski	

Once the full meeting resumed, Cheryl shared the Goals tracking spreadsheet, which is located within the ESC SharePoint folder. **Each sub-committee is to update their section of the spreadsheet and continue to meet between ESC meetings.**

Chanel discussed the breakout session of the Communications & Marketing sub-committee. This group discussed the best ways to get information to students. We should resurrect the idea of a Sustainable Skyhawk newsletter. Also, a calendar of campus-wide sustainable events should be created and maintained on the College's Sustainability webpage. Cheryl pointed out that this sub-committee is there to assist the other sub-committees with any communications needs. Greg noted that Celia had created a Sustainable Skyhawks flyer in lieu of distributing the Green Kits this year. This will need to be shared with first year students.

Craig reviewed the Strategic Planning breakout session. This sub-committee serves as an umbrella for the other subcommittees' goals. We need to continue to try to tie our goals with the College's Strategic Plan. Several ESC members worked very hard, talking with Strategic Planning Committee members, to promote sustainability. It was also mentioned that this might be a good time to push a sustainability requirement into the general ed. curriculum review. The bottom line, the ESC needs to infiltrate as many areas of the College as possible, to bring sustainability to the forefront of people's minds.

Bob discussed the Waste Reduction sub-committee's session. There is concern with having to eliminate the Green ToGo initiative this year. The increase in waste has been substantial, but

hopefully we can start this up again by next year. Michelle stated that there has been such a frenzy to switch back to disposables during the pandemic, while there is a lot of evidence that reusables are not harmful to use at this time. Greg explained that Dining Service's (Sodexo) is not using green containers due to the unknown transmission of COVID-19. Although it was thought that there was a potential risk, more is being learned. Perhaps this can be revisited for next semester, but it won't be a quick change. Bridget noted that there is a lot of student interest in expanding our composting efforts, and Cheryl suggested that we try to work with Black Earth.

Lucy discussed the Real Food breakout session. The Real Food Working Group continues to meet every other week, and baseline data will be available soon. It has been decided that the College will not re-sign the Real Food Challenge but will continue to work toward our 20% *real food* goal, particularly with purchasing from local food sources.

Louisa reviewed the Environmental Justice breakout session. They discussed what their goals should be. Concerns centered around economics and ecology, and how to apply these issues to Stonehill. Once their goals are determined, an action plan can be developed. Greg discussed the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge, developed by Food Solutions NE, that he has taken part in. It is a very comprehensive look at our sustainability habits.

<https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/>

It was noted that it's okay if there are overlapping goals among sub-committees. Just be creative. Sub-committees should meet in between our monthly ESC meetings.

#### 5. Stonehill Divisions: Sustainability Accomplishments & Goals

Last year a spreadsheet was created to track the College's sustainability efforts by division. It is in the ESC SharePoint folder. Rob had presented the Academics Division's Sustainability Plan last year. These efforts should continue, possibly as a friendly challenge among divisions. This can be a focus for our next ESC meeting.

#### 6. Website Updates

Cheryl pointed out the *Sustainability* webpage (<https://www.stonehill.edu/offices-and-services/sustainability/>) and that it should be kept up to date with pertinent information such as the ESC's goals, Sustainability Reports, etc. Also, the *Sustainable Skyhawks Mark Earth Day* webpage, developed by Celia Dolan, can be updated and re-used. In April, this creative initiative had 90 community members share tips for leading a more sustainable life. This proved to be a great way for students, faculty and staff to connect.

#### 7. ESC SharePoint folder

All ESC documents (sub-committee information, meeting minutes, Sustainability Reports, etc.) are stored here:

<https://studentsstonehill.sharepoint.com/sites/FinDiv/Ops/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=f24ab05d%2D0d71%2D49b5%2Db176%2D762ed2f36ae9&id=%2Fsites%2FFinDiv%2FOps%2FShared%20Documents%2FSustainability>

Please let Deb know if you have trouble accessing it.

#### 8. Other Business

Jessa noted that Stonehill received an impressive Green Rating of 88 from the Princeton Review last year. Based on our annual survey results, the College has improved steadily from a low of 73 in 2012.

Cheryl asked new members to share their initial feelings regarding the ESC. Several stated their excitement with becoming involved with this group and its mission, feeling hopeful and encouraged. Bridget and Chanel added that they are particularly excited about adding the Environmental Justice sub-committee.

The 2021 Northeast Farm to Institution Summit will be held, 100% virtually, in April. If you would like to be involved, please reach out to Bridget.

Greg pointed out that we all represent different groups, departments and divisions, and we should all have a to-do list of sustainability-related goals.

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Future meetings:

October 21 at 1:00 p.m.

November 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Deb Norton



### **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, John Duggan, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Jill Gruskowski '21, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. Introductions

Cheryl asked student members to introduce themselves: Andrea Romig – Photonics Program; Lucy Almberg – class of 2021, Food Truth leader; Louisa Rossel – class of 2021, SEA member, Education and Environmental Studies major; and Jill Gruskowski – class of 2021, Environmental Science major.

#### 2. Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2020, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

#### 3. Subcommittee Updates

- **Strategic Planning**

Craig and Kristi reviewed the subcommittee's recent efforts. They are currently focused on how Academic Programs can increase their inclusion of sustainability. The College does continue to increase sustainability-related course offerings. The subcommittee would like to reach out beyond our Environmental majors. The group tasked with revising the General Education Program is trying to put together three separate plans by December in order to get feedback from faculty and students. At least one plan will include a design-your-major opportunity, and Kristi is advocating for a sustainability-focused Gen. Ed Program option.

Craig explained that the Strategic Planning subcommittee oversees the other subcommittees. The Academic piece is an important one, which we will remain focused on.

Greg asked about the possibility of having a Board of Trustees member from the environmental field. This could be a very important support person for our mission. Craig explained that there is a committee that helps to solicit new Trustees. They could be asked to consider that aspect when looking for new members. One-third of the BOT are members of the Holy Cross Congregation. Bridget suggested that there may already be Trustees with environmental interest. Can we reach out? Craig will look into this.

- **Communications/Marketing**

Chanel reviewed this group's efforts. We have met several times and are close to getting things off the ground. Colin is designing a template for emailing Green Tips. We are checking with Media Relations to ensure that we aren't stepping on anyone's toes. Our first couple of

Green Tips will include information about student environmental groups on campus and phantom power. We have also asked the Waste Reduction and Environmental Justice subcommittees to each develop a Green Tip for us. Fr. Tim has reached out to *The Summit* about getting a piece (possibly about composting) published in an upcoming issue. Our social media efforts are underway, and our handle is @sustainableskyhawks. Chanel will send a link for social media once the sites are up and running. We began to investigate the installation of signage along the Admission tour route, but this project will have to be put on hold for the semester. Craig stated that we could install two small signs in order to start that project, and Paul will assist with the installation. Greg proposed that signage be made from the lumber of the large tree that fell several years back.

- **Waste Reduction**

Bob reviewed the subcommittee's work. A major issue facing our efforts is the dramatic increase in trash from the Dining Commons due to the pandemic. The group would like to propose using your own silverware, reusable straws or paper straws, and reusable cups. Also, consider using your own containers for taking home restaurant leftovers and utilizing reusable shopping bags. Another big issue is the lack of proper recycling in residence halls.

Bridget asked where we stand with working with Black Earth on composting. Greg stated that when we last met, there were concerns about distribution. Facilities has to be involved in composting discussions. Bridget noted that The Farm is receiving pre-consumer waste from the Commons, Au Bon Pain, Gigi's, and My Brother's Keeper (thanks to Celia). Possibly we can work on composting with students living in Pilgrim Heights. This will require proper signage and education. It was suggested that we use green footprint decals on the floor of the Commons, leading to the compost bins.

Kathleen noted that new tableware dispensers will be used at the Hill and the Commons. These dispense one piece at a time, to avoid contamination. This will replace the need for the three-piece packet of plasticware.

Andrea asked if there is a biodegradable option. It was explained that these tend to melt at a certain temperature. Michelle added that plant-based tableware has a higher footprint than that of plastic.

Greg noted that it is still important that we try to get organics out of our waste stream. What are the obstacles that are stopping us from moving forward on this? Michelle explained that most facilities are not screening out compostable products. People are paying for this service with the best of intentions, but they usually end up in the trash.

It was asked if there is any funding available to pay for Black Earth's services for organic waste. Containers could be provided at each res. hall. Cheryl noted that Real Food and Waste Reduction subcommittees should join for discussions on composting. It was noted that currently no funding is available for this, although planning for the future should continue.

Cheryl mentioned that the MassDEP was impressed with our Green To-Go campaign and asked if there is any way they can help with our initiatives. She will reach out to see if they can help us with funding for Black Earth.

- **Environmental Justice**

Louisa reviewed their recent efforts. She noted that they will work on a Green Tip for the Marketing/Communications subcommittee at their next meeting. They are creating their own environmental justice Instagram page, including tips of our own. The page will highlight different social justice matters on campus such as the food pantry.

Cheryl stated that there should be consistent branding (Sustainable Skyhawk) for all communications. Chanel will check with Colin if there are any concerns with using "Skyhawk".

Cheryl also noted that all communications need to be factual and should be reviewed by at least two people.

- Real Food

Bridget reviewed the subcommittee's recent efforts. The Real Food Working Group is a bit frustrated as the numbers don't reflect the amount of work that has been done toward the College's Real Food Commitment. Going forward, they will focus on their accomplishments and not get hung up on our current % of *Real Food*. We are defining our own standards. Lucy noted an event being planned for next semester to celebrate our accomplishments with local foods and that we are moving in the right direction. They will continue to work with the Real Food Challenge for their resources.

Cheryl pointed out that all ESC members are invited to attend any subcommittee meetings, particularly where there are connected initiatives among the groups.

4. Composting Project

Andrea discussed her Photonics final project. She is creating a small compost bin using a 3D printer. It would be great if these could be distributed to residence hall rooms. These desktop-sized bins could be dumped into a larger compost bin within each residence hall.

5. Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges 2021 Edition

Deb noted that Stonehill is again included in the Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges. Our annual green rating (84 for 2020) is based on our Princeton Review - Green Initiatives survey submission. It was noted that of the 15 NE10 schools, only four are included in the Green Guide this year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Next meeting:

November 18 at 1:00 p.m.

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, John Duggan, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Jill Gruskowski '21, Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Ethan Penn, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. **Introductions**

Cheryl asked student members to introduce themselves: Ethan Penn – class of 2023, Environmental Studies and Communications, Founder of the new Outdoor Recreation Club on campus.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

October 28, 2020, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

3. **Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be held on December 16 at 1:00 as most members stated that they are able to attend.

4. **Subcommittee Updates**

- **Strategic Planning**

Craig noted that this group met this week. The last time they met, they discussed how to work sustainability into the General Education program. This effort will continue.

They will be reaching out to all the ESC subcommittees in order to update the ESC Strategic Plan. A method for measuring goals needs to be developed.

The group also discussed resurrecting a student sustainability ambassador program.

Greg asked about working toward having sustainable-minded Trustees. Craig has spoken with Tom Flynn about this, and he also plans to speak with Doug Smith. The Board welcomes input, but there are a lot of competing needs, such as diversity, for Board members.

- **Waste Reduction**

Bob noted that the group was unable to meet this month. Greg asked about competing in Recyclemania this year. Bob explained that Recyclemania is designed to be a student-run program, and there isn't enough interest or support this year.



Ethan noted that he would like to arrange hikes/clean-ups. Chanel will work with him to publicize events.

Cheryl and Michelle Lee Guiney met with representatives from Mass DEP and the company, Usefull, that provides stainless cups and take-out containers with QR codes so that they can be distributed for use, collected, cleaned and re-distributed for use, eliminating disposable containers. They would like to test pilot a program at Stonehill using stainless to-go containers with QR code technology. Usefull will not consider using our plastic green to-go containers. We can apply for a grant from Mass DEP for the microchip technology.

Greg noted that with our own Green 2Go process, we can use any container and receive a 10-cent reduction. He's unsure why we need to re-create the process.

Cheryl explained that this idea is all about tracking and accountability. Students won't be charged anything unless they are late to return a container. The containers would be scanned when returned to one of multiple campus drop-off locations. It is estimated that we would want approximately three containers per student in circulation. There are no dishwashing system constraints. In these early stages of discussion, many questions remain. The weak point in the process always seems to be residence halls. But if the program doesn't work out, we simply return the containers to Usefull. We will go back to our Green 2Go process once we are able. Cheryl offered to have a representative speak to the ESC. Greg would prefer they meet with Sodexo first.

- Communications/Marketing

A green tip on phantom energy was distributed on October 30. Thanks to Colin for all his work on this. We have more tips ready to go.

Social media messaging is a work in process.

We are beginning to work on outdoor signage for the Admission tour route, which will promote our successful sustainability initiatives. Our goal is to have several signs installed by next semester.

Cheryl noted that the Mass DEP was very impressed with Res. Life's recent *Quick and Easy Sustainability Tips* that was sent to students in October. They would like to share it with other institutions.

Bridget noted that all our signage should look similar. The Real Food and Communications/Marketing subcommittees will be meeting to discuss this shortly.

- Environmental Justice

Louisa noted that the group was unable to meet this month. They are working on a green tip to be distributed shortly.

Greg discussed the *21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge*, which will take place in April. He has received approval from the Finance Division and Latesha Fussell, Director of Intercultural Affairs. The program gives participants daily prompts to complete challenges related to sustainability, diversity and equity. Greg is committed to bringing this to campus and is looking for a sponsor. There is no cost involved. Andrea, Bridget, Chanel and Louisa are all interested in bringing the Challenge to Stonehill. Greg will get in touch with them to coordinate.

- Real Food

This group met this morning. Lucy explained that the College is now able to purchase much more locally grown food items due to our relationship with Farm Fresh RI. The Real Food group is working to label and advertise the food that is sourced locally, fairly and humanely to promote awareness and education.

We are working on our own but utilizing the Real Food Challenge database in order to add new foods to our campus.

There is a small compost project in Flynn, coordinated by Bridget Gill.

The Real Food and Communications/Marketing subcommittees plan to work together to promote these initiatives.

5. AASHE Sustainability Awards

Greg noted that several small colleges have won AASHE awards for initiatives that we have also accomplished. Should we be working towards awards? What are we eligible for? Colleges with a true Office of Sustainability can publicize and receive recognition. Since ours is a virtual office, it needs to be a group effort. We need to advertise our sustainability efforts in a manner to catch attention. This is in addition to the Princeton Review survey that earns us the recognition of being included in their annual Green College Guide.

6. Other Business

Greg noted that the PBS special *Jonathan Scott's Power Trip* is worth the watch. The program on solar power is part of the WGBH American Experience:

<https://www.wgbh.org/program/independent-lens/jonathan-scotts-power-trip>.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

**December 16 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton



## STONEHILL COLLEGE

### **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Kristi Burkholder, Felicia Cafua '22, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. Meeting Minutes

The November 18, 2020, meeting minutes were approved as amended.

#### 2. Reduction of Energy and Waste Consumption

Jessa reviewed the energy reductions that are expected over this extended work-from-home period. Based around those limited staff members who will remain on campus (Admission, Athletics, Testing Center, Facilities), Jessa will be able to reduce thermostat set points from 62 degrees down to 50 degrees in most buildings. Most water heaters will be shut off. We will ensure that all windows are closed and locked, and any dripping faucets and running toilets found will be repaired. Those remaining in residence halls will be provided with space heaters. We anticipate drastic savings.

Jessa was asked if commuting is calculated into the energy savings expectations. She explained that this is focused on utilities only.

Craig noted that Senior Leadership chose not to close the campus last winter, and we are fortunate to be able to do so this year.

#### 3. Subcommittee Updates

- Strategic Planning – As this group serves as an umbrella for the other subcommittees, it would be great to have drafts of the other subcommittees' goals.

The two main goals we are working on are including sustainability in the Academic Curriculum and Energy Reduction initiatives.

Craig noted that he and Greg reached out to Doug Smith about the idea of seeking an environmentally minded Trustee on the Board. Craig will follow up.

- Communications/Marketing – Several “green tip” emails have been sent to students and staff. We are working on the idea of placing signage along the Admission tour route to highlight our solar installations, the permaculture garden, and composting.

Cheryl mentioned the Mass DEP’s interest in Res. Life’s Halloween tip that was distributed this fall. Now that we have a connection, it would be great to be featured in their newsletter.

- Waste Reduction – Recycling and trash pickups are on hold during this extended work-from-home period, which will be another large savings.

Cheryl discussed the idea of working with USEFULL, renting their QR-coded stainless containers. The College would pay \$0.25 for each container usage, but we wouldn’t have to buy other containers. We can apply for a Mass DEP grant to get this program off the ground.

Concerns were expressed about students renting them several times per day and being charged. It was noted that the containers are free to students, and they will only be charged if they are returned late (after two days). The student fees are a concern that we can’t take lightly; students will have to provide their credit card information in order to take part in this program. The key to this program’s success is student buy-in.

Michelle Lee noted that our main goal is to reduce our carbon footprint. The plastic green to-go containers must be used a certain number of times to be carbon neutral or beneficial. Likewise, the stainless containers would have to be used or it defeats the purpose.

It would be too costly to fit our green containers with QR codes. There is also the reverse vending option, but it was determined that it wouldn’t fit our needs.

It was suggested that we apply for the DEP grant to strengthen our own program. Cheryl stated that we can try but they are really looking for organizations to work with a program like USEFULL’s. The nice piece about their program is that we would be renting. If things didn’t work out, we could just return the containers and be done. Cheryl will ask for a rep from USEFULL to present to us at January’s ESC meeting.

- Environmental Justice – The group is developing a green tip for the Communications/Marketing group as well as one for their own distribution. They are looking into different platforms such as the Res. Life newsletter, SEA Instagram and the TV screen in Shields. They are organizing monthly topics for the spring semester.

Cheryl suggested that Christian (SGA rep) invite other SGA members to attend January’s ESC meeting. Feel free to forward ESC meeting invitations to others.

- Real Food – no updates at this time.

#### 4. Other Business

- There was discussion surrounding our use of well water, and it was suggested that we find out more about our aquifers (How long they take to recharge, etc.). Kristi will reach out to her contact, a specialist on local water resources, to hopefully join us at February’s ESC meeting. Sue Mooney and Rob Rodgers may also have contacts for the policy side of the discussion. Craig noted that we are seeking scientists – not activists.
- Andrea Romig of the Photonics program has completed her 3D printed desktop compost bin project. She will share her PowerPoint presentation. The next step is to seek patenting.

- Greg will be reaching out to those who are interested in helping to bring the *21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge* to Stonehill in April. The Challenge focuses on diversity, inclusion and sustainability over a 3-week period. A volunteer group will be needed to spread the word throughout campus.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 26, 2021, at 1:00 via Zoom.**

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Kristi Burkholder, Felicia Cafua '22, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. Meeting Minutes

The December 16, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

#### 2. Presentation to Pitch App Idea to Computer Science Senior Capstone Class

Cheryl noted that she, Greg, and Michelle have met with USEFULL several times, and it seems that their stainless container lending system may not be what we are looking for.

Professor Bob Dugan has reached out to the community for app ideas that his Computer Science Senior Capstone students can create during the semester, to solve a real problem. Cheryl will be pitching the idea for an app for borrowing Green 2Go containers, utilizing technology to track the containers. She is scheduled to present to the class tomorrow, January 27 at 1:00 p.m. She shared her presentation with the ESC, which includes data and other details from the Green 2Go program as well as the many reasons why we should utilize reusable containers.

The app could provide friendly reminders and offer frequent users with rewards such as a free cookie. Container usage could be tracked using Hill Cards, and this data could help us measure our environmental impact. Craig noted that Hill Cards contain three different identifiers: barcode, magnetic stripe, and proximity chip. Andrea noted that Mount Ida College provides a credit to student accounts for returned containers.

#### 3. Subcommittee Updates

- Strategic Planning – Craig explained that they are working on two main goals: Working to have sustainability included in the GenEd program, and Energy Reduction. As a member of the GenEd task force, Kristi elaborated on their work. They have sent three options to faculty for their review and feedback. Two of these options propose pathway programs, which have students learning different skills from different disciplines, all connected to a theme. Kristi is advocating for sustainability to be one of those pathways. The task force hopes to have a plan selected by the end of the semester. Craig noted that having sustainability incorporated in the GenEd Program would make a big difference for campus sustainability initiatives.

Jessa discussed the efforts made toward energy reduction, particularly during the work-from-home period this winter. Storm windows were closed, thermostat setpoints were reduced and many work orders were created for leaks and weather stripping. She expects that the total energy savings will be significant. Not all billing has been received, but so far, our fuel oil usage is down 9,000 gallons (-45%), natural gas usage is down 26,200 therms (-19%), and electricity usage is down 237,000 kWh (-18%). She also noted that our water usage during the summer months was down 1.9 million gallons (-36%). The incremental things that people are doing all adds up. It is really a group effort.

Craig reviewed the goals that he has received from the other subcommittees. (see SharePoint ESC folder)

- Communications/Marketing – Chanel reviewed this group's work. They are working on signage for the Admission tour route, as well as sending out Green Tips and creating an Instagram site.
- Waste Reduction – Bob noted that COVID-19 put a wrench in our efforts. There is a lot more waste from the Dining Commons, increasing our overall trash volume significantly. He will put some data points together.

Greg noted that the textile bin was recently overflowing with donations but has since been emptied by Bay State Textiles.

- Environmental Justice – Louisa discussed their work, including creating environmental justice tips geared toward students, making posters, having on-campus speakers, and promoting campus environmental justice efforts on tv screens in Meehan and Shields.
- Real Food – Lucy explained that they are planning an Earth Day outdoor celebration for the progress that Real Food has made. She also noted that they are no longer calculating food and have moved to interpreting their data. This semester, Bridget and Professor Wetzel are teaching the Food Justice LC, which is focused entirely on Real Food.

#### 4. Sub-Committee Membership List

A sub-committee members list was reviewed and will be posted on the ESC webpage for reference.

#### 5. Other Business

Jessa explained that we are close to being eligible for the gold STARS rating. Although we do not receive points for our solar installations, we do get points for purchasing solar credits. We also receive points for Investor Ethics, through our endowment with Notre Dame.

#### 6. Upcoming Events

Kristi noted that the Martin Institute will be hosting an event on Earth Day (April 22) that will be focused on environmental justice in the Amazon region.

Greg will be reaching out for assistance with promoting the *21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge*, to be held on campus in April. The hope is to get much of the community to take the Challenge, followed up with important discussions.

Kathleen noted that Sodexo is planning several Earth Day events in the Commons.

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

**Next meetings:**

**February 23 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**March 30 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**April 27 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton





# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### MINUTES

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Holly Brennan (Sodexo), Kristi Burkholder, Felicia Cafua '22, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, Linda DesRoches (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Dave Griffin, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. Meeting Minutes

The January 26, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as amended.

#### 2. Subcommittee Updates

- Real Food – Students from the working group attended the *Hindsight is 2020: Celebration and Reflection with Real Food Challenge* online event on February 5, where those institutions that have met the Real Food Challenge shared information with other attendees. Lehigh University and Fort Lewis College both have Sodexo for their dining services, and we are reaching out to them for food labeling ideas. Our goal is to add more local, fresh foods; if we reach 20%, that would be great.

Middlebury College uses a card system that offers incentives for students to buy real food. This could be a good idea for Stonehill, possibly for next fall.

There was discussion about the student group SADD (Student Advocates for Delicious Dining) who are from a senior Communications class. Their goal is to improve food on campus, but they have not communicated what their specific concerns are or provided any ideas for improvements. They have yet to reach out to Sodexo.

- Environmental Justice – The group met on February 18 and are working on Green Tips and planning for an Earth Day event. They will be attending today's online Catholic Climate Covenant program for ideas and will provide an Earth Day events update at the March ESC meeting.
- Waste Reduction – Waste reduction is difficult at the Commons due to the use of single-use to-go containers. The group is considering creating signage, and possibly suggestions on the BITE app, to remind students not to take items that they don't need (utensils, straws, etc.).

Bob noted that by next fall's semester, half of the student-body will not have used Green2Go containers on campus. This might be a good opportunity to resurrect the program.

There was discussion about composting and revisiting the Black Earth proposal in order to remove some items from our waste stream. Labor and funding are large hurdles for this program. It was noted that a small group of students piloted post-consumer composting last semester without much success. Post-consumer composting in the Commons can be revisited in the fall, with proper education and signage.

Cheryl updated the group on the development of the Green2Go app. The Computer Science students selected this project from a total of twelve proposals. They are moving quickly, and getting input from Greg, Kathleen, and Michelle. Colin has been working on app images; however, Professor Duggan saw a very similar app already named Green2Go. He believes that we may have to come up with a new name.

- Communications/Marketing – The group is working on several Green Tips, one of which is related to going meatless during the Lenten season. Admission tour route signage is in the works.
- Strategic Planning – This group's objective is to create a five-year plan, and Craig is asking the other subcommittees to send him 2-3 bullet points of their goals that would span the next five years. These should be high-level, flexible goals.

Kristi provided an update on the GenEd task force, which is currently on hold while it is determined how to proceed with the departure of Liz Chase. There are still three program proposals on the table, two of which involve pathways to incorporate sustainability. Provost DeBrenna Agbenyiga will be providing the task force with an updated timeline. They are also anticipating faculty feedback on the three proposals.

### 3. Other Business

There was discussion about recycling the single-use containers being used at the Commons. These are made of polypropylene, not paper, but have a black bottom, so they are non-recyclable. If we switched to a recyclable paper container, they would often have too much food stains to recycle. Holly noted that Sodexo is currently receiving a lot of substitutions from their suppliers for products such as to-go containers.

Bob noted that recycling seems to be at a normal level. He will check if there has been much contamination in the recycling.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

#### **Next meetings:**

**March 30 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**April 27 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, John Duggan, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Gina Herosian '23, Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Bob MacEachern, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig (Photonics), Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Juliana Walsh '22, Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### 1. Meeting Minutes

The February 23, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

#### 2. Campus-Wide Earth Day/Month Events

Dining Services will be offering an all local meal during the week of April 18. More information will be provided as the date nears. Greg noted that the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge will be taking place in April. The ESC will send an email to the community noting all Earth Day events that are being planned. Additionally, Juliana will include this info in the RHA Newsletter's campus events section.

#### 3. Choose2Reuse App

Cheryl expects to receive a response soon regarding our \$5000 Mass DEP microgrant application. Kathleen confirmed that the College currently spends approximately \$6000 per week on single-use containers. Kathleen also explained that Dean College has attempted to use china in their dining venue without much success. Currently, students do not feel comfortable with it. Michelle will share a link to a seminar scheduled for April 6 at 3:00pm about getting back to using reusables, and addressing safety and hygiene concerns. Greg, Craig, and Cheryl plan to attend. However, with very few students eating meals in the Commons, and the increased number of positive COVID-19 cases on campus, Stonehill students will not be asked to use china right now.

It has not been decided whether reusable to-go containers can be used again in August as there are many factors to be considered, including the cost of the containers for all our dining venues. It was asked if students could receive further education on recycling the disposable containers. Unfortunately, the food-stained containers can contaminate the recycling stream.

Cheryl noted that three of the four classes this upcoming fall have never used the Green2Go container system. She hopes to roll out the new Choose2Reuse system in the fall, although there are concerns that there could be glitches with the system initially that would need to be addressed. It was suggested that Choose2Reuse begin as a pilot program on a voluntary basis this summer and fall, and roll it out campus-wide in January. Bob noted that RAs could assist with

explaining the system to students, and it could also be included on the RHA Instagram site. Fr. Tim offered to include Choose2Reuse in the First Year Experience classes. Colin helps to design the freshmen orientation materials, and can include Choose2Reuse in the dining services section.

There was discussion about needing volunteers to place QR code stickers on the new to-go containers. Possibly, SURE students can do this over the summer, in their spare time. Greg noted that there are many decisions to be made prior to ordering the containers (2500-5000).

Professor Dugan's computer science students are working hard to complete the app by the end of the semester, and two students will be available to assist with the app throughout the summer and fall.

#### 4. 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge

The Stonehill Community will be invited to participate in the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge beginning on April 5. Those who sign up for the program will receive a daily "prompt" email that is related to an aspect of racial equity. These prompts are meant to help you learn, reflect and act against racism. Food Solutions New England, the sponsor of the program, provides great resources at <https://foodsolutionsne.org/racial-equity-challenge-resources>. For more information and to register, go to <https://foodsolutionsne.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge>.

Next year, Greg hopes to have group participation (student, faculty, departmental), which would support the College's efforts around DEI.

#### 5. Leave No Trace Behind: Student Move-Out

Greg had distributed an email suggesting an end-of-year initiative to decrease the amount of useful stuff put into the waste stream as students pack up their belongings. Many items can instead go to the campus textile bin, can be recycled, or can be reused by My Brother's Keeper. This will take a lot of resources to organize, particularly from Residence Life and Facilities.

#### 6. Subcommittee Updates

- Strategic Planning – This group is organizing bullet points of the other sub-committees' long-term goals.

Kristi provided an update on the GenEd program revision. A yet-to-be-hired Associate Provost will lead the revision, so the task force is currently on hold. It is unknown if the new hire will use the task force's prior work, potentially incorporating sustainability into the program. The search committee is currently being formed.

Jessa provided an update on the energy savings the College experienced due to our extended work-from-home period this winter. The electricity savings is the equivalent of a 40-day blackout.

3			
4	January Update: Energy/Water Update: We went through buildings turning thermostats down, shutting storms, locking windows, and taking note of leaky water fi		
5	<b>MARCH UTILITY CONSUMPTION UPDATE - usage compared to last year</b>		
7	Natural Gas --- July 1st - March 9th --- 38,500 therms --- 10%		
3	Oil --- July 1st - March 29th --- 4,593 gallons --- 17.6%		
3	Water --- July 1st - Dec 31st --- 4.5 million gallons --- 40%		
3	Electricity --- July 1st - March 9th --- 1.3 million kWh --- 15%		
1			
2			

- Communications/Marketing – This group did not meet this month. They distributed two Green Tips in March.
- Waste Reduction – They did not meet this month but will provide an update at our April meeting.
- Environmental Justice – No update was provided.
- Real Food – The Real Food Working Group met yesterday. Kristi has agreed to be the group's supervisor upon Bridget's departure from the College. The group is no longer calculating for the Real Food Challenge but have gathered a lot of useful data. They are working on developing a new food option called "ACE Approved". They are still determining the criteria for Ace Approved, e.g., healthy, non-GMO, local, etc. The group intends to post ACE Approved food information on the Sustainability webpage, accessed via QR codes on signage in the Commons, which will guide students to more sustainable dining options.

#### 7. Other Business

There was discussion on inviting Black Earth back to the April 27 ESC meeting to discuss how they can help us with composting. Concerns with composting include a lack of facilities, labor, and funding. Those expressing interest include Gina, Cheryl, Andrea, Bridget, and Kristi. In addition to Facilities, Residence Life would need to be involved with the discussion. Greg will reach out to his contact at Black Earth.

Governor Baker just signed a Climate Change Bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was noted that the new legislation reduces the threshold of organic waste from one ton to one-half ton per week at institutions such as Stonehill.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**Next meeting:**

**April 27 at 1:00 via Zoom**

**Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.**

Submitted by Deb Norton



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Lucy Almberg '21, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kristi Burkholder, Christian Castriotta '22, Kim Cordeiro, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Jessa Gagne, Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Gina Herosian '23, Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Chanel Mazzone, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Louisa Rossel '21, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

Guest: Justin Sandler of Black Earth Compost

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

1. **Meeting Minutes**

The March 30, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as amended.

2. **Black Earth Compost Presentation**

Justin Sandler, Partner at Black Earth Compost, discussed the importance of composting. We are running out of landfill space, and food scraps are the heaviest part of the waste stream. 40% of solid waste is organic matter; Black Earth Compost's mission is to take as much of this waste as they can before it ends up in landfills.

Nutrients within the food scraps are what create compost over time. Utilizing this compost gets those nutrients back into the ground, where people can grow their own healthy, organic food.

The company, which has 25 trucks and 45 employees, has many residential customers as well as large organic waste producers such as Wegmans, Brandeis University and Clark University.

Current Massachusetts legislation limits organic waste disposal to one ton per week at institutions such as Stonehill. DEP officials are at transfer stations, and violators are being fined. Next year, the State's threshold will be reduced to ½ ton of organic waste per week.

Currently, Stonehill collects kitchen food scraps (pre-consumer) and coffee grounds for composting at The Farm. Compost bins in the cafeteria and residence halls would likely become contaminated without proper oversight. A successful composting program requires communication, education, and oversight. Otherwise, if contamination occurs, the entire load is disposed of.

Justin explained that Brandeis U. has six compost locations across campus. Tufts U. has compost bins in their residence halls. The bins need to be placed out-of-the-way where passersby will not contaminate them. The idea is that students who want to compost, know where the bins are located and will go out of their way to do so. If the bins were managed by Residence Life and

student volunteers, this could be a great program. They could be picked up, possibly twice per week for 13 weeks in the fall and 13 weeks in the spring.

Unfortunately, with cuts to the College's operating budgets, it is unknown how this could be funded. Justin noted that if the College had a composting program, we would be reducing our trash amount by as much as 40%, reducing trash fees through smaller dumpsters or less frequent pickups. It was suggested that the Green Fund be used to start this program. This idea can be discussed separately. Justin added that they have a referral program that can reduce costs.

3. Choose2Reuse App Update

The app is coming along nicely and must be completed by the end of the semester. It is now a working app for both Android phones and iPhones, and the students have developed a website that provides information for Sodexo and Facilities, e.g., container numbers, users, bin levels, etc.

The Choose2Reuse process: Users will scan the container's QR code with their phone and receive a confirmation and time stamp, which they show to the cashier. The plan is to place QR stickers on containers during the summer and pilot the program in the fall. Assistance/updates will be provided by a Computer Science student and Professor Dugan.

A Choose2Reuse app demonstration and Q&A will be held via Zoom on May 13 at 11:00 a.m.

4. 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge Review – April 5 - 28

Greg and Craig discussed their experiences with this year's Challenge. They did not find it to be too time-consuming. The Challenges were very interesting, but they are not sure how to apply what they have learned. Overall, it was a worthwhile learning opportunity.

The Native American history of the Stonehill land was noted. The Ames family acquired a land acknowledgement statement, and there were several archeological findings in the 1950's. Stonehill's former Assistant Director of Archives, Jonathan Green produced a video "Placing Stonehill in the Context of Southeastern Massachusetts's Indigenous History." <https://stonehill.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=601af46b-926d-4a78-b481-acbb00f118e5>

Next year, Greg hopes to have group participation (student, faculty, departmental), which would support the College's DEI and Sustainability efforts.

5. Leave No Trace Behind: Student Move-Out

In anticipation of a coordinated effort for student move-out, Greg received an updated list of the most needed items from My Brother's Keeper. People should be kept in mind that the Easton Food Pantry can always use donations. Also, the on-campus Baystate Textile bin is available for unwanted textiles, rather than throwing items away.

Unfortunately, Greg has not been able to reach Residence Life, and this initiative cannot happen without sufficient coordination.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- Strategic Planning / Waste Reduction – Craig presented several graphs highlighting the College's waste and recycling data:

- Our total solid waste tonnage has decreased from 640 tons in FY15 to 446 tons in FY20, while the amount of waste per resident per year has remained somewhat steady at ~115 lbs.
- Our recycling tonnage has fluctuated from a maximum of 148 in FY17 to a low of 122 in FY20.
- Recycling as a percentage of recycling plus waste has steadily increased to 21% in FY20.

Specific goals for further decreasing our waste stream should be established. Composting our organic waste would be beneficial, as would the Choose2Reuse initiative.

- Communications/Marketing – An Earth Day events announcement was distributed campus-wide.
- Environmental Justice – nothing to report
- Real Food – Next year, Kristi will oversee Food Truth, and Bridget Gill and Gina Herosian will be the group's student leaders. They are working on the development of an ACE Approved food program, and have issued a student survey to help determine the criteria for ACE Approved food. Professor Mike Sale will oversee the Real Food working group.

#### Other Business

This is Bridget's final ESC meeting. Many thanks for her countless contributions over the years. Lucy and Louisa are graduating and will be missed for their hard work on their subcommittees! Thank you and best wishes!!

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

#### **Next meeting:**

**May 25 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom**

***Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.***

Submitted by Deb Norton





# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kim Cordeiro, Kathleen Fitzgerald (Sodexo), Michelle Lee Guiney (Waste Management), Gina Herosian '23, Brittany Lorgeree, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Andrea Romig, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. and was chaired by Prof. Cheryl Schnitzer.

#### **1. Meeting Minutes**

Following review, the April 27, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

#### **2. Accomplishments and Goal Planning Discussions**

##### **a. Choose2Reuse App Update**

Cheryl reviewed Professor Dugan's Computer Science class presentation on the development of the Choose2Reuse app, which details the impressive work behind the scenes. Two students will continue to work with us over the summer and fall, making changes to the app and website as needed.

Different scenarios were discussed regarding lost/damaged containers and students incurring fees. There will be a Choose2Reuse reward system (e.g., free cookie) for the timely return of containers. Students will receive two free containers. Still to be done: Place QR stickers on containers; Sodexo and Facilities will learn how to use the Choose2Reuse website, which provides a lot of information.

It was suggested that there be a Choose2Reuse information station during Community Engagement Day (August 23). Students could learn how the program works, and ~100 students could sign up to be part of a pilot program during the fall semester.

Colin noted that Marketing can include Choose2Reuse information in the Dining section of the student orientation materials.

##### **b. Freshmen Green Kits**

Following discussion, it was decided that Green Kits will not be given out this year. Vendor donations are not expected this year. Also, if students are not motivated to be more sustainable, Green Kits only create more stuff to lay around or end up in landfills. Greg added that Green Kits are supposed to be an annual student-led initiative.

c. Marketing/Signage/Emails

Chanel provided notes on the Marketing/Communications subcommittee's efforts: Our strategic plan is to create college-wide awareness of sustainability initiatives through email, bulletins, social media, and other forms of communication. We hope to use social media and other resources to spread the word and increase environmental literacy on campus. Some ideas include:

- Social Media Marketing
- Biweekly emails spreading knowledge about sustainable choices
- Increase awareness of the College's sustainability goals and accomplishments through signage on Admission tour routes
- Environmental literacy surveys sent out to see if we are accomplishing our goals
- Encourage student involvement in sustainable initiatives
- College-wide calendar of environmental and sustainable events happening on campus
- Communication and collaboration between other ESC subcommittees

d. ESC Strategic Plan

Craig explained that the Post-It Note exercise the ESC completed two years ago helped us to create a useful roadmap. Our [Planning Document](#) will hold us accountable and help to keep us focused. In the fall we will review the document and possibly change some objectives.

The ESC must continue to "infiltrate" the campus with its mission.

e. Earth Week Activities

Kathleen reviewed the Sodexo events held during Earth Week, including no beef, pick-a-plate (instead of a to-go container), and a farmer's market selling local dairy products, meats, cheeses, dips, juices, and vegetables.

f. Moving Forward with Limited Financial Resources

Craig noted that all of higher education is experiencing financial constraints right now. Stonehill revenue has fallen \$10 million during the pandemic, and, although we have responded very well, we still need to cut \$1.5 million in FY 2022. The ESC has come up with good ideas, but they cost money, so most cannot be done right now. However, we still have the Green Fund (approximately \$7,000) for kickstarting small initiatives.

3. **Other Business**

Compost

It was asked if we can work with Black Earth Compost, particularly since we may not be in compliance of the ½ ton per week organic waste limit, when it goes into effect. Craig noted that the Green Fund cannot be used for reoccurring costs. He added that our declining balance meal plan helps to keep food waste down.

Michelle offered to assist if we begin a res. hall compost program. The bins would be located outdoors and would require student volunteers and be maintained by Facilities. It was noted that

the compost bin outside of Rehoboth Hall was removed due to damage and lack of use. It was in a poor location with no signage.

#### ESC Appointments

Craig will be reaching out to division heads this summer for their annual appointment of ESC member(s). Although these are appointed members, everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the ESC.

Cheryl thanked Michelle Lee Guiney from Waste Management for her years of dedication to the ESC. Much appreciated!

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

***Please remember to send information about all campus wide sustainability-related initiatives to Deb in order to be captured in the next Sustainability Report.***

Submitted by Deb Norton