



# 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