



STONEHILL COLLEGE

Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Mark Agana, Gianna Bertelli '25, Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Lee Damore, John Duggan, Jessa Gagne, Avery Holzworth '25, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Devin Mahon '26, Joshua Moniz '26, Laurie Mooney, Fr. Tim Mouton, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Meghan Sambrook '25, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Colin Spencer

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

1. **Welcome**

New attendees introduced themselves: Meghan Sambrook '25 (Environmental Science, Political Science) and Joshua Moniz '26 (Computer Science, RHA Advocacy Committee)

2. **Meeting Minutes**

The September 27 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

3. **2022 Mass Save Climate Leaders Award**

On October 5th (Energy Efficiency Day), The Sponsors of Mass Save® announced Stonehill College as an inaugural recipient of their 2022 Mass Save Climate Leaders Award. In recognition of our efforts to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts, Stonehill is one of 19 organizations to be “recognized for outstanding efforts to creating a greener future”. Our major upgrades to lighting, HVAC, and energy management systems were specifically recognized.

See Stonehill College’s announcement [here](#).

See The Sponsors of Mass Save® announcement [here](#).

4. **Updates**

Strategic Planning

Craig discussed the upcoming Moody’s credit rating review, scheduled for November 3. This year Moody’s will include ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) factors as part of their review, thus, our discussions will include the Princeton Review and AASHE STARS, among other topics.

Craig presented *Sustainability at Stonehill* to the Advancement division, who found it to be very informative. He has also presented to three of the six *Business 101* classes, with the remaining three scheduled shortly, reaching approximately 300 freshmen. Craig noted that very few of these students are using the Reuzzi app and have stated that they did not receive a Green Kit. Most likely they received the kit but did not recognize the term “Green Kit” when asked.

Cheryl noted the [Recyclopedia](#) tool to help determine if something is recyclable.

Communication/Marketing

Work continues on the Sustainability website. No further update.

Waste Reduction

Bob plans to review the trash and recycling numbers for the past several years. Waste Management over-reported our weight pickups, using ten tons as the minimum even when less than ten tons was picked up. Bob also noted their custodial staffing shortage. He also stated that we are purchasing more paper towels now than ever before.

Reuzzi

Cheryl and Greg presented to Laurie Mooney's *Principles of Environmental Science* class (non-freshmen), showing the two-minute Reuzzi video. Only three of the 20 students are using the app; hopefully it is just a matter of getting the word out. A graphic design student is working on social media posts for Reuzzi. There are currently seven Reuzzi student ambassadors (who receive a stipend). If anyone is interested, please reach out as one more ambassador is needed.

The Reuzzi container drop box locations are working well. One will be added at Meehan Hall where there is heavy foot traffic.

There was discussion on eliminating all single-use containers in the Commons next semester as well as a discussion on adding the Reuzzi program at The Hill. It was noted that the nonstick lining in disposable to-go containers contains the forever chemicals associated with PFAS.

The Farm

There is some progress in defining the compost area. The Farm is continuing to receive pre-consumer waste from the Commons.

During Homecoming Weekend (October 29), The Farm will have a table for honey sales as well as a pumpkin carving activity. This will be an opportunity to discuss Reuzzi and Stonehill's sustainability efforts with students.

Food Truth (Update provided via email by Gina Herosian)

A meeting was held on October 20:

1. We will have two more meetings the rest of this semester (November 2nd and November 30th).
2. Our hopes for November 2nd are to meet in the Farmhouse for a fall themed event with possibly soup and cider. We may show a documentary and/or have a food-related discussion. We are still working out the details.
3. Our hopes for November 30th are to have an end of semester celebration with funding help from the Fun Fund. We are also trying to do a craft/fun activity for students to take home with them.
4. We are actively looking for underclassmen to take on leadership positions to carry on the legacy of Food Truth when seniors leave in the Spring.
5. We plan on discussing the meeting dates for the spring semester over Winter break.

5. **Other Business**

Cheryl read Kristi Burkholder's update on the potential Center for Sustainability:

... I wanted to provide you all with a quick update about the potential Center for Sustainability. As you may all remember, we first floated the idea this summer and the

feedback that you all gave allowed me to pull together a preliminary draft about what a Center could look like. As a reminder, the draft center had six key “pillars”:

1) Strong Academic Program Offerings

This section described the fact that we already offer two undergraduate majors (ENV science and ENV studies) and a minor. We are also being pegged to collaborate with other developing programs (ENV and engineering? ENV and business?).

2) Signature Experiences and Programs

This section proposes a few signature elements that could become part of a Center. For example, a signature field experience course (Eric LeFlore is dying to design!), or a lecture series to bring more ENV focused talks to campus.

3) The Farm at Stonehill

Self-explanatory! The Farm and its important work would be a critical partner for any Center.

4) Campus Commitment to Sustainability

All of the amazing work of the ESC! Also, the efforts of our student groups on campus: Food Truth, SEA, etc.

5) Natural Spaces on Campus

Nature trail, labeled trees, etc. We would love to consider an outdoor classroom as a part of the Center too!

6) Holy Cross Identity

Connections to our mission! As a Catholic Institution, we are being called to act to protect the environment and those that are being impacted by climate change. We think that our catholic identity would be central to the center too!

DeBrenna and Kevin have been supportive of this idea so far and have passed the draft White Paper on to Fr. John. We are awaiting his permission to move forward with a more formal draft of the idea. If we get that permission, we will certainly be coming to ESC to help contribute additional ideas and feedback. ESC will be a central partner in this work! In the meantime, any thoughts/comments/concerns would be most welcome...

The ESC showed unanimous support for a Center for Sustainability and will respond with a letter of support.

Concern was expressed regarding funding for the Center as the College’s financial situation has not allowed for support of this initiative in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.