



### **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Monday, January 30, 2023

8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, John Duggan, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jessa Gagne, Brittany Lorgeree, Bob MacEachern, Joshua Moniz '26, Laurie Mooney, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Rob Rodgers, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Mercy Song '23, Colin Spencer, Greg Wolfe

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

#### 1. **Welcome**

Mercy Song '23 introduced herself. She is a senior international business student. Welcome!

#### 2. **Meeting Minutes**

The October 25 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

#### 3. **Princeton Review Green Rating / 2023 Guide to Green Colleges**

Craig provided an overview of the Princeton Review annual survey (Green Campus section). Participating Colleges are ranked between 60-99, and those with a score of 80 or above are included in the annual *Guide to Green Colleges*. (For details, see Craig's presentation slides at the end of these minutes.)

#### 4. **AASHE STARS**

Jessa discussed the AASHE STARS reporting process. STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their (environmental, social and economic) sustainability performance. We achieved a STARS silver rating in 2016, which was valid for three years. To bring our reporting up to date, we would need all relevant departments to review and update their sections thoughtfully and thoroughly. Then, we could potentially achieve a gold rating. Jessa will provide instructions for logging responses on the STARS website.

It was suggested that Craig present *Sustainability at Stonehill* to the academic division and senior leadership.

#### 5. **Green Fund Volunteers**

Rob Rodgers and Mercy Song volunteered to review Green Fund applications.

#### 6. **"The Letter: A Message for Our Earth"**

It was suggested that there be a campuswide screening of this documentary on the message of *Laudato Si'*, as an opportunity to continue to educate the College with our environmental messages. It could potentially be a part of this year's Teach In or an Earth Day event. Greg will reach out to Professor Eric LeFlore regarding the Teach In schedule, and Rob will contact Katie Currul-Dykeman, Director of the Martin Institute, for support.

## 7. **Updates**

### Strategic Planning

In an effort to update the ESC's five-year plan, Craig would like to use components from Kristi Burkholder's white paper that supports a Center for Sustainability. This is a comprehensive framework for sustainability at the College. Cheryl will reach out to Kristi for a version of the white paper that can be released to the ESC to assist us with updating our subcommittees goals.

### Communication/Marketing

The subcommittee met last week to discuss edits to the Sustainability website. The website update will include more graphics and the removal of outdated information. The website will be a more user-friendly version for perspective students. It was suggested that the site include a tab for academic programs with sustainability offerings.

Greg discussed the importance of communicating with our current students via social media platforms and other methods, i.e., internal-facing communications. He noted that many of our websites and social media sites have not been updated recently.

### Waste Reduction

Bob, Bruce, Cheryl, and Dave Farnworth recently participated in an informative call with Mass DEP on reducing and reusing. Bob shared the following websites, which are great tools for determining how/where to recycle household items:

<https://recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search/>

<https://recyclesmartma.org>

It was suggested that information on recycling best practices be made available to students, possibly through a short video or QR code.

Greg noted that Res. Life should start planning for student move-out, with bins made available for recyclable items.

There was discussion on our recycling efforts during campus construction projects, including copper, furniture and relocating trees, in order to limit our environmental impact.

Joshua noted that O'Hara needs more trash bins, wherever there is a recycle bin.

### Reuzzi

Cheryl discussed Reuzzi data showing the number of users and the number of returns. In an effort to improve returns, daily text reminders are being sent to students showing how much money is owed for unreturned green containers. Student ambassadors will be providing additional Reuzzi education. Green Funds could be used to create a Reuzzi contest or receive a coupon for a free treat after using Reuzzi a certain number of times.

Greg stated that the 2022 fall semester began with 300 green Reuzzi containers and ended with approximately 250.

It was suggested that Gigi's utilize Reuzzi containers.

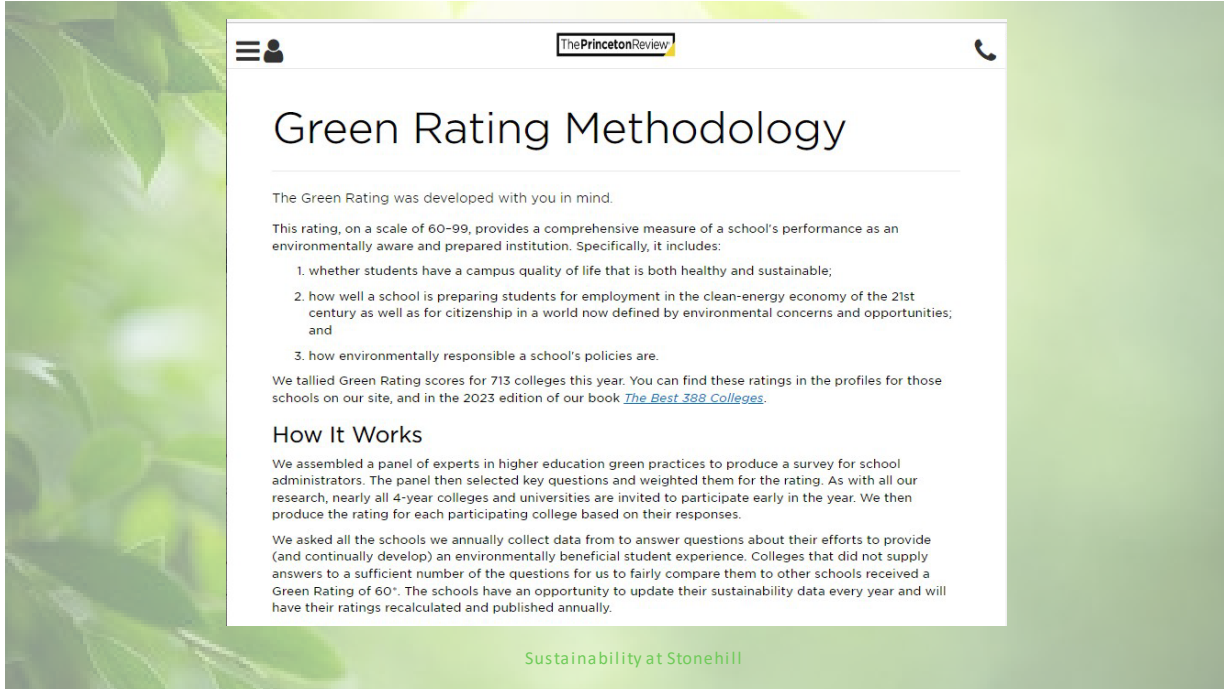
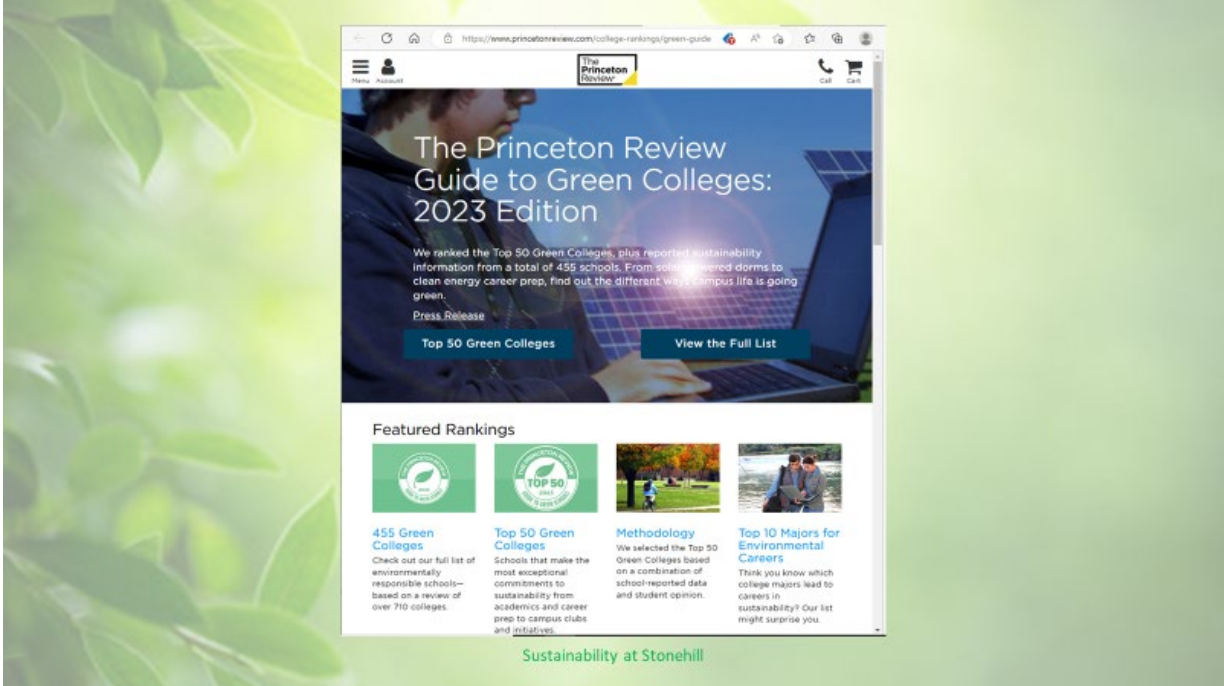
Cheryl, Greg, Kathleen, Brittany, and Laurie will be meeting to discuss ways to improve the Reuzzi process.

### The Farm

Laurie noted that she would like to help with planning for Earth Day and suggested an event offering transplants from The Farm.

There are plans to add more fruit and nut trees at The Farm this year. Current projects include creating a larger compost area and a fencing project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.



## Areas Included in the Annual Princeton Review Survey

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer Purchasing</li> <li>Integrated Pest Management</li> <li>Cleaning Products Purchasing</li> <li>Waste Diversion</li> <li>Active Student Organizations</li> <li>Building Operations and Maintenance</li> <li>Building Design and Construction</li> <li>Indoor Air Quality</li> <li>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory</li> <li>Clean and Renewable Energy</li> <li>Energy Metering</li> <li>Student and Employee Commuting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibiting Idling</li> <li>Sustainability Coordination</li> <li>Sustainability Learning Outcomes</li> <li>Undergraduate Program in Sustainability</li> <li>Faculty Engaged in Sustainability Research</li> <li>Office Paper Purchasing</li> <li>Campus Fleet</li> <li>Mass Transit Programs</li> <li>Food and Beverage Purchasing</li> <li>Vegan Dining</li> <li>Career Center Guidance on Green Jobs</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Sustainability at Stonehill

1 Princeton Review Green Ratings														
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Conference	College	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
3	College of the Holy Cross	92	92				84					83	97	
4	UMASS-Amherst	85	99				96					97	97	
5	Bentley University		92				97			98		93	96	
6	Boston College		83				77					90	94	
7	Bryant University	72	76				81					84	90	
8	St. Michaels College		93				96			82		82	90	
9	x Stonehill College	73	84	89	88	82	84	87	88	84	84	75	89	
10	Le Moyne College		69				74					85	88	
11	Adelphi University		93				78					66	87	
12	x Central Connecticut State U.												86	
13	Pace University		65				69			81		79	86	
14	University of New Haven		60				60					79	85	
15	Quinnipiac University		73				75					61	82	
16	Wheaton College (Norton MA)												80	
17	x Merrimack College		65				67					63	64	
18	x Saint Francis U. (Loretto PA)												64	
19	St. Anselm College		60				60					63	63	
20	College of St. Rose		60				60					65	61	
21	AIC		60				60					61	60	
22	Assumption College		61				60					60	60	
23	Bridgewater State University	61	61									60	60	
24	x Fairleigh Dickinson U. (Teaneck NJ)												60	
25	Franklin Pierce University		74				60					60	60	
26	x Long Island U. - Brookville												60	
27	Providence College	69	69				60					63	60	
28	x Sacred Heart U. (Fairfield CT)												60	
29	Southern Connecticut University		85				87					60	60	
30	Southern NH University		87									60	60	
31	x Wagner College (Staten Island NY)												60	
32	x Long Island U. - Brooklyn													
33	x St. Francis College (Brooklyn NY)													

Sustainability at Stonehill

With more than 1,100 participants on six continents, AASHE's STARS program is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's sustainability performance. Participants report achievements in four overall areas: operations, academics, engagement, and planning administration. While STARS is a sustainability-focused system, it does not only assess environmental factors but also social and economic factors.



Sustainability at Stonehill