



## Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Monday, February 27, 2023

8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

### MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jessa Gagne, 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**

2. **Meeting Minutes**

The January 30 meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

3. **Updates**

**Reuzzi**

Cheryl shared highlights from the February 13<sup>th</sup> Reuzzi meeting attended by several students, Cheryl, Craig, Kathleen, and Greg.

How can Reuzzi Student Ambassadors (RSA's) help?

- “Going Green in March” campaign to further promote the Reuzzi program - for financial and environmental benefits
- Encourage people to sign up
- Eliminate single-use options; only green containers during the week of March 12<sup>th</sup> (later changed to starting March 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Introduce Reuzzi at The Hill and Gigi's during the March campaign with RSA's on hand to assist. Find space at Gigi's for green containers. (Compostable containers are usually lined with PFAS.)
- Circulate the Reuzzi video
- Cashiers must enforce Reuzzi/container pass
- Create signage: “Single-use containers are \$0.75 each and green containers are FREE” and “Save the Earth. Save your money”
- Climate Champ badges and raffles (gift cards) for Reuzzi users
- More RSA signups needed for the Campaign

Why aren't students using reusables?

- Students are not incentivized enough to use the app. How to motivate?
- Some consider single-use containers more convenient; Stonehill has a disposable culture
- There is a perception of smaller portion size with the green containers
- The Commons offers china plates for eating in; during warmer weather some students will eat outside with green containers
- Some say Wi-Fi connection isn't great in the Commons – may not be able to download the app; confirmed that Wi-Fi works

- For simplicity, can a Reuzzi “reusable container” button be embedded in the Everyday app, like Kiwibots?
- Can green container drop off boxes be added at larger residence halls?

We throw away three tons of plastic each week; spent \$94k on single-use disposables for the year.

Greg provided data for single-use container usage:

- 2018 fall semester 21,869 (during Green2Go program)
- 2021 fall semester 59,775 (height of COVID)
- 2022 fall semester 14,493 (using Reuzzi)

It was noted that first year students are given reusable cups to use at Dunkin’ for a discount, yet no one uses them there. Sodexo offers a \$0.10 discount at their venues.

### **Strategic Planning**

Craig noted the 16 key program areas of Stonehill’s 2012-2018 Sustainability Plan:

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|---|--|
| 1. Academic Curriculum                          | 9. Procurement and Purchasing                      |
| 2. Campus Sustainability Culture                | 10. Renewable Energy/St. Francis Pledge            |
| 3. Communication                                | 11. Stewardship Council Roles and Responsibilities |
| 4. Dining/Food Services                         | 12. Sustainability Management and Reporting        |
| 5. Endowment Investment                         | 13. The Farm                                       |
| 6. Energy Conservation                          | 14. Transportation                                 |
| 7. Green Building                               | 15. Waste Minimization & Recycling                 |
| 8. Management – to achieve Sustainability Goals | 16. Water Conservation                             |

In 2019, the ESC completed an exercise to help determine areas of focus for our five-year plan:

1. Strategic Planning
2. Academic Curriculum
3. Communications/Marketing
4. Waste Minimization
5. Energy Reduction

Professor Kristi Burkholder’s white paper *Stonehill College Center for Sustainability* lays out a potential structure organized around six “central pillars”:

1. Strong Academic Program Offerings
2. Signature Experiences and Programming
3. The Farm at Stonehill
4. On Campus Commitment to Sustainability
5. Natural Spaces on Campus
6. Holy Cross Identity

There was discussion on meeting in-person and going through the Post-It Note exercise again, in order to update the ESC’s priorities and to set goals.

### **Waste Reduction**

The subcommittee is mainly focused on the campus’s trash and recycling efforts.

Craig presented *Sustainability at Stonehill* at a recent Finance Division meeting. That group discussed reducing excessive printing on campus. Craig/Greg will determine the biggest print users based on data.

Greg discussed the “Greening Our Move-Out” initiative for the year end move-out. Res. Life, Facilities, and student volunteers will assist with moving students’ donated items to a holding location for the future benefit of My Brother’s Keeper, the Lions Club, and Baystate Textiles. It was suggested that they seek Oliver Ames senior student volunteers to help pick up and sort the donated items.

### **Communication/Marketing**

Currently, the focus is on updating the Sustainability website. There was discussion on publishing a newsletter each semester to promote campus sustainability initiatives.

RSA Jen Bradford '25 will help to promote Stonehill's green initiatives while working in Marketing this summer.

### **The Farm**

Laurie noted that she will be seeding and planting more fruit and nut trees. There is discussion on having hens at The Farm – for their eggs and for consuming pre-consumer food waste.

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