



Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting

Monday, April 24, 2023

8:30 a.m.

via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees: Craig Binney, Bruce Boyer, Jessa Gagne, Joshua Moniz '26, Laurie Mooney, Deb Norton, Paul Ricci, Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Greg Wolfe

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

1. **Welcome**

2. **Meeting Minutes**

The March 27th meeting minutes were approved as amended.

3. **AASHE STARS**

Jessa has received the requested data from Information Technology, Human Resources, The Farm, MacPháidín Library, and Institutional Research as we work toward our next STARS submission. She is working closely with Academics, which is a huge contributor for STARS, and hopes to receive the remaining requested information from other areas soon.

4. **Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)**

Cheryl has learned from other schools that while PLAN provides tools for students to conduct a campus waste audit, they do not necessarily support them through the entire process and would require additional campus support.

It was decided that we will join PLAN for one year, develop an internship (PLAN Coordinator), and hire the ideal student to lead the charge of establishing waste stream solutions at Stonehill. This year's membership fee can be paid through the Green Fund. The internship can be paid through work study funds. Cheryl, Laurie, and Greg will submit the PLAN application in May.

Laurie agreed to help develop the internship program. The PLAN Coordinator would be supported by various areas of the College: The Farm, Facilities, Res. Life, Dining Services, etc. This position will need to be posted soon in order to have someone in place for the fall. It was suggested that several students be hired to share responsibilities with the Coordinator. Ideally, the first semester would be devoted to research, followed by plan development, then implementation by year-end.

5. **Updates**

Strategic Planning

Craig discussed ten focus areas for the ESC going forward:

1. Lack of student involvement
 - It was suggested that the ESC have a table at this fall's student activities fair.
 - Although Zoom is convenient, in-person meetings make for better discussions.
 - Invite outside student groups, e.g., SEA.
2. PLAN internship
3. Have more specific goals (less broad)

4. Reduce campus printing
5. AASHE STARS
6. Real Food
7. Departmental Goals
8. Composting
9. Communicate to the Stonehill community: Monthly emails, The Summit, and Alumni Magazine
10. End of year move-out

Communication/Marketing

Send monthly community emails: "Did you know..."

Waste Reduction

Bob remains focused on the reduction of solid waste and recycling. He is presently working with a very limited custodial staff.

Reuzzi

Cheryl noted Greg's Reuzzi presentation at PLAN's panel discussion on Reusable To-Go Collection Programs, held on April 4th.

There was a strong push last month to eliminate single-use containers at the Dining Commons, creating a significant uptick in green container usage. This is now working well at the salad bar.

The team is working with Sodexo to try to implement Reuzzi for orders on the Everyday app.

Greg noted that single-use container usage fell from ~60,000 in the fall of 2021 to 14,900 in the fall of 2022.

A reminder will be sent to students soon, urging them to return their green containers prior to move-out in order to avoid charges.

Laurie added that we should be prepared to get students into good habits as soon as they arrive this fall, with no single-use containers. Per student feedback, Reuzzi should be available at Gigi's, and more return locations are needed – although we have eight locations throughout campus.

The Farm

Laurie noted that the water has been turned on and they are beginning to transplant into the fields. The Farm now has baby chicks that will be out in their pasture in a few weeks. There is a lot of student involvement, and Farm Fridays volunteering has been successful so far.

6. Other Business

- Greg discussed the Sustainable Skyhawk Move-Out efforts that are underway, where students are asked to donate reusable items that might otherwise be thrown out, as they pack up their belongings this spring. There will be collection bins at each res. hall specifically for textiles, unopened, non-perishable food items, and dining wares. Volunteers are needed for assembling and distributing boxes, and then for sorting and distributing the donations on May 22.
- Craig noted that Jessa recently met with Professor Mark Agana's and Professor Laurie Mooney's Environmental Science students to discuss our solar installations and energy conservation efforts.
- The ESC will continue to meet via Zoom throughout the summer for those who are able to attend. Beginning in September, ESC meetings may be held in-person.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.