

**Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, August 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Greg Wolfe, Jessa Gagne (Scribe), Bruce Boyer, Fr Tim, Joshua Moniz '26, Mark Agana, Alyssa Stramacchia

**1. Welcome****2. Meeting Minutes**

The June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes have been distributed. Any changes can be forwarded to Jessa.

**3. Strategic Planning: one year, two years, five years – Craig**

**Academic:** Discussion about previous goals and information needed for the plan. A description of the new general education program and “sustainability tracks” is needed. Kristi’s white paper can be added as well.

**Waste Minimization:** Bob, who is the current chair, is retiring on 1/31/24. He will continue to track waste and recycling figures. Greg will change from the Marketing group to Waste Minimization.

**Marketing:** New and existing marketing opportunities were discussed including the alumni magazine, monthly emails, Green Kit pamphlets, Craig’s presentations to BUS-101 classes as a guest lecturer, and Jessa’s tour/info sessions of the Clock Farm solar array. Classes in particular are a great way to expose a large number of students to sustainability. The group needs 1-2 committee meetings to create a new 5-year plan.

**Gen ed requirement-**Principals of Environmental Science fulfills the science general education requirement. When the new general education requirements were presented to faculty, the example in the presentation was of an environmental track. Additionally, Theory and Practice of Sustainability was a new course 2 years ago open to ENV majors but is now open to all students.

Having sustainability learning outcomes is the largest credit in AASHE STARS. Fr. Tim will look into sustainability learning outcomes; however, there is a lot of competition with regard to what is included as learning outcomes in the majors and courses.

This could be included in a new 4 of 5-year plan. The group discussed updating the plan throughout this year working to finalize it next year.

#### **4. PLAN Membership and Student Intern Update**

Josh has been looking into PLAN and the application process. PLAN is an organization that connects colleges with programs throughout the country. He is also looking into Atlas zero waste program, which would be in addition to the PLAN membership. PLAN has one-on-one advising, digital libraries of marketing and programming materials.

The group discussed using this to get more student involvement with sustainability planning and coordination.

For the ATLAS program the entire campus would need to agree to having a zero-waste goal. Having a zero-waste goal may be a requirement to join this program; however, having a zero-waste goal is not likely at this time. Zero-waste doesn't mean what the name implies. Understanding where and why waste is created on campus would be needed to evaluate whether a zero-waste goal is attainable.

Greg, Josh, Laurie, Cheryl and Jessa will have a separate meeting to evaluate PLAN membership.

#### **5. Green Kit Update**

Greg and Jessa reported that all the basic items are ready to go – reusable shopping bag from Follett and hand towels by the Green Fund.

There was discussion regarding the inclusion of Tide pods vs. information regarding how much soap to use. Tide Pods give a good visual representation of how much to use, but get crushed in the bags. Educational information will be added to the Green Kit pamphlets regarding the amount of soap to use in the College's high efficiency washing machines. Information will also be added regarding using only cold water.

Greg reported that only a dozen or so coupons for a Dunkin cup and reusable straw were redeemed last year.

Fr. Tim described that the Green Kit is presented and distributed during First Year Experience (FYE) classes, and that there is not a lot of discussion about them.

The group discussed different ways to present the material directly to students. These ideas included making the kit more interactive with a scavenger hunt, a Reuzzi challenge by class with a prize, taking the students on a tour of the campus pointing out the clothing recycling bin, The Farm and other sustainable features, or having a short (5 slide) presentation on ways to live a greener life at Stonehill. Advertising the ENV courses that fulfill the science requirement could also be added to the pamphlet.

Gamifying sustainability would be good for a student group to direct.

#### **6. Reuzzi Update**

Fr. Tim shows the Reuzzi video during FYE and can put the link into Canva. Cheryl is working on getting student ambassadors to inform/encourage the use of the Reuzzi containers during peak mealtimes at Roche. Alyssa can add slides to the TV screens that are shown throughout campus as well.

**7. Green Fund Volunteers (1 academic/staff & 2 student)**

Lee Ann Damore

Mark Agana

Will ask for student volunteers at the next meeting.

**8. Recap/Action Items**

Future meeting topic – Canva demonstration

PLAN meeting – August 18<sup>th</sup> 10AM



**Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, September 28, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Greg Wolfe, Jessa Gagne (Scribe), Fr Tim, Alyssa Stramacchia, Meghan Sambrook '25, Laurie Mooney, Joanna N. Ravello Goods (guest)

**1. Welcome**

**2. Meeting Minutes**

The August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes have been distributed. Any changes can be forwarded to Jessa.

**3. Presentation by Joanna N. Ravello Goods, PhD, Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Assistant Professor**

Presentation materials and recording will be forwarded to the group once available.

**4. Recap/Action Items**

Next meeting: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 9AM



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, October 26, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**Members:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Greg Wolfe, Bruce Boyer, Fr Tim, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Chanel Mazzone '16, Angela DeMaio '27, Naomi Cooper '26, Gabe DeSouza '27, Josh Moniz '26.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Meeting Minutes**

The September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes have been distributed. Any changes can be forwarded to Jessa.

### **3. Discussion about student initiative to collect recyclable bottles & cans**

Greg – through outreach they found 3 students that were interested; however, we may be too far into the current academic year to move forward with this year. It needs to be a student-led program, and its important that it remain student centered. Student would meet with each area (Facilities, Res Life, Sodexo, Academics, etc) to get information on current waste and recycling practices in order to make a plan that identifies obstacles and reasonable goals.

Angela - one initiative they have been considering is making bins for bottles and cans in order to have a competition. The bottle deposits could be used to fund an ice cream party and other initiatives.

Student effort to collect bottles and deposit- remove from waste stream- group with Gabe Tuesday

Greg – great idea. Students would need to help with collection process.

Angela/Gabe – this topic will be discussed at their next weekly meeting (Tuesdays 2:15-3:15). They will be calculating costs for this initiative. Would like an anonymous way to drop off cans. One bin for each class year, perhaps in the back of The Hill.

Craig – Encourages everyone to check out PLAN website and create an account. Students could look through the resources to find resources for their initiatives.

Lee –students could consider having faculty and staff participate as well. The Arc of Greater Brockton has a bottle and can pick up service available on a case-by-case basis, and an account can be established for fund raising. Speak to a Stonehill College representative prior to setting up any account and there may be rules associated with opening an account.



The Redemption Center, located at 1250 West Chestnut Street in Brockton, is open to the public six days a week. Monday through Friday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Redemption Center is staffed by individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, and autism spectrum disorder.

#### 4. PLAN Membership and Student Intern Update

Cheryl – to get student momentum going, we could use the Green Fund to have paid positions.

Naomi – ESC could use social media to gauge student interest or have student survey after Farm Fridays. Students follow Stonehill on Instagram, and direct emails would also be effective. Student would likely be willing to set up a social media presence.

Craig – Green Fund can be used as seed money to start initiatives – materials to collect cans or initial intern position.

Fr. Tim – can send out info to FYE to help identify interested students.

Gabe – their generation is very interested in the environment and political issues, and would be interested in this position.

Josh – PLAN website has a lot of resources this position could use. The position was for 5 hours/week for 10 weeks.

Greg – student could use spring semester to plan for joining PLAN, then start the program next year.

Craig/Cheryl/Greg – it would be beneficial to have a structure in place (position expectations, who student will be working with, which initiatives to focus on, etc.) before position is filled.

#### 5. Green Fund – Need 2 student members- Naomi Cooper & Gabe DeSouza.

FY24 Budget \$7,282      Balance \$6,289.79

Expenses have included the green kit towels, JM summer pay, MM Hope Happens Here event.

#### 6. Update Website: [www.stonehill.edu/sustainability](http://www.stonehill.edu/sustainability)

#### 7. Other Business

Kathleen – dining update: new version of reuzzi app is out. Had an “all you care to dine” dinner earlier this semester. The amount of food thrown away was staggering. Our waste vendor had noted a couple years ago that Stonehill is where other colleges aim to be with regard to waste minimization achieved with declining balance meal plans. Need more education around compost/recycle/trash bins so that the compost bin isn’t contaminated. With “all you care to dine” meal plan, green containers would be limited as students wouldn’t be able to leave the dining area with food.

Greg – a student marketing intern could help get the messaging out about the benefits of a declining balance meal plan.

## **8. Recap/Action Items**

Future Meetings: Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> 9AM, Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, November 16, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**Members:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Greg Wolfe, Bruce Boyer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Laurie Mooney, Robert Rodgers, Jessa Gagne (scribe).

## **MINUTES**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of October 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Student Intern Applicant and Sustainability Positions Update**

Of the 16 applications, 6 were selected to potentially fill 3 positions as sustainable leaders.

They will focus on 4 areas (Reuzzi, composting, recycling and move-out), rather than just PLAN, which includes interviewing people, identifying resources, and gauging support for a zero-waste initiative.

Greg has \$4-5K set aside for work study funding. Stipends and volunteers have been used in the past, but we need student involvement to change from supporting initiatives to taking charge of initiatives. Stipends and volunteers will continue to be used as needed for additional support.

Cheryl attended a student zero-waste conference at Swarthmore where she also spoke about the Reuzzi program. Stonehill is not far behind many campuses – the best colleges are diverting around 90%, while others are just starting. Many institutions are relying very heavily on compostables however most studies show they use more energy and cost more. She spoke with person who would oversee our PLAN student. There are three phases. The first of which is to interview people, identify resources, and find starting point. The subsequent stages seem to be done by other students due to year-to-year change over.

The current plan is to have 3 students work 5 hours per week beginning in January 2024. The green fund can be used as a one time expense, but not continuously fund a work study position. The ESC needs to determine funding and supervision. (3 people, 5 hours, 10 weeks, \$17/hour = \$2,550).

Kathleen is able to share information she has about other colleges with regard to food waste and cost.



The college is currently exploring changing the meal plan from “declining balance” to “all you care to dine”. The change could potentially take place within the next two years. Currently there are 3 levels for the declining balance (\$1,510/\$1,910/\$2,110). “All you care to dine” plans are able to have different levels as well with different combinations of swipes into Roche and HCC, and discretionary funds to be used at other on campus food venues. There was a discussion about food insecurity and resources available to students. Currently the college can add money to student dining accounts if they run out; however, the request generally comes from the student.

#### **4. Other Business**

Greg spoke about Reuzzi with the SGA. Some students are of the unfortunate mindset “I can’t be bothered to return containers” and this thinking needs to be addressed. Reduction and elimination of single use to-go containers also needs to be addressed.

The SGA was onboard when asked for support in the past. Previously they had a vote and decided that they wanted to go all reusable.

Per Greg, RHA will take over student move-out.

#### **5. Upcoming Events**

#### **6. Recap/Action Items**

Future Meetings: Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 9AM

**Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, January 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**Members:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Greg Wolfe, Bruce Boyer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Laurie Mooney, Robert Rodgers, Jessa Gagne (scribe), Cecelia Moisan, Joshua Moniz, Emma Worster.

**MINUTES****1. Welcome****2. Approval of January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes****3. Food Solutions New England (FSNE)**

Cheryl provided a brief description of the 21-day challenge and is looking for others who would like to participate over the summer. The participants meet for a few minutes each morning to go over that day or yesterday's challenge. Interested members can contact Laurie Mooney.

**4. 2024 Move Out by RHA**

Greg is already planning for the textile bin delivery. Katie was unable to attend the meeting but can provide more information on this initiative in a future meeting.

**5. Princeton Review**

Jessa is working on the Princeton Review survey responses. She will send out individual messages next week and submit the responses by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**6. Student Intern Applicant and Sustainability Positions Update**

Three sustainability leaders have been found – Cecelia (reports to Cheryl), Emma (reports to Laurie), and Ava (reports to Greg).

Additional involvement is growing with the other applicants and the SGA.

Cecelia, currently a first-year, will work on the Reuzzi container program, getting more information out to students, meeting with SGA for approval and getting a team behind Reuzzi for 100% reusable to-go in the Dining Commons after Easter break.

Emma, currently a junior, will work on improving recycling by what the contamination is and its causes, improving composting, and reducing food waste.

Emma volunteered to reach out to SEA to determine its status and membership via the SGA. If SEA is not currently organized, then members will need to be recruited and officers will need to be named.

Compost in The Commons may be relaunched with the addition of the new sustainability leaders. Relaunching this would include finding volunteers, training them on how to separate compost, trash, and recycling, providing green shirts and an online sign-up form.

Ava will work with Greg on marketing. Ideas include weekly emails, posting to social media, working with the RHA to hold Green Fund events, and looking for innovative student led projects.

## **7. Other Business**

There will be open forums with various food service providers as part of the process for selecting a vendor.

Plans for Moreau Hall are being developed. It is anticipated that the renovation will be completed in states.

## **8. Upcoming Events**

## **9. Recap/Action Items**

## **10. Future Meetings:**

Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 9AM

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 9AM

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 9AM



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, February 29, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

**Members:** Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Lee Ann Damore, Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Greg Wolfe, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Laurie Mooney, Louis Carrion Garci, Jessa Gagne (scribe), Cecelia Moisan, Emma Worster, Ava Machaud.

## **MINUTES**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Sustainability Intern Presentation – Ava, Cecelia & Emma**

See attached.

- 4. Campus Move Out (Katie/Greg)**

Greg reported that per Katie the Res Hall Association will take this over per Katie. He has already contacted our textile company to scheduled drop off. Over Spring Break Louis will collect Sodexo dining wear located in the residence halls. The Green Fund will be used to purchase reusable boxes that will be labeled by donation type (food, textiles, other).

- 5. Stonehill Sustainability Logo**

Student from one of SC's art classes are working on developing a new logo.

- 6. Princeton Review**

Jessa received all responses for the Princeton Review survey responses. The completed survey was submitted on March 1<sup>st</sup>. While there is no public information on the formula used to calculate Green Ratings, the responses did not vary much from last year for which SC earned a rating of 91.

- 7. PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network) - visiting Stonehill first week of April (time TBD)**

Cheryl is arranging for PLAN to visit the Stonehill campus. PLAN, which has been around 10 years, has a lot of resources available to SC online. SC community members can make their own accounts to access their resources. More information will be sent closer to the campus visit.

- 8. Future Meetings:**

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 9AM

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 9AM



# STONEHILL COLLEGE

## **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

Cheryl Schnitzer (Chair), Paul Ricci, Craig Binney, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Laurie Mooney, Bruce Boyer, Eric Newnum, Alyssa Stramacchia, Louis Carrion Garci, Jessa Gagne (scribe), Cecelia Moisan, Emma Worster, Ava Machaud, Josh Moniz, Fr Tim Mouton, Dick Grant (guest).

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Approval of February 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

### **3. Dick Grant – Bluebird Monitoring - [hillcarver@verizon.net](mailto:hillcarver@verizon.net) - 774.265.0231**

Dick Grant, former Stonhill employee for 43 years, spoke about Bluebird monitoring on campus. The North American Bluebird Society is a national organization that supports the return of bluebirds, whose population had decreased due to predators and insecticides. He set up first bluebird box behind Holy Cross. Additional bluebird boxes have been placed at the RT 138 entrance, HCC Cemetery, and across from the crab apple patch. Through the bluebird monitoring program, the whole life cycle is able to be documented – the female says 5 eggs, the male brings food, the eggs hatch one-by-one, the parents feed them as they grow into fledglings, and then finally leave the nest.

Volunteers are needed for this program. They can be taught how to document the bluebirds in one meeting. Volunteers would monitor 4 boxes twice per week, which would take approximately 30 minutes. When the eggs start to hatch, volunteers may want to monitor them more. To volunteer for this program, contact Dick Grant [hillcarver@verizon.net](mailto:hillcarver@verizon.net).

### **4. Sustainability Interns - Ava, Cecelia & Emma**

Cecelia may be stepping away from being the Reuzzi intern. She still wants to be involved, but not as point person. The presentation to SGA to restart SEA as a student group is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Emma presented information on companies that deal with food waste. With Rocket Composter professors can use it to teach about the compost and breakdown processes. The company works with customers to find the best solution for the customer's budget and operations. Another company, Ecovim, is utilized at RIT and SNH.

The interns completed recycling audits and found food waste contamination. This included containers with food in them, Styrofoam, and hard plastic materials. Consistent signage is needed. Also, the totes vary in color (blue and brown). The use of different colored bags/liners or no liners at all could help identify which totes are for recycling. Possibly having recycling leaders/auditors in each dorm may also help.

Additional work includes updating/revamping the Stonehill Sustainability, applying for a microgrant to fund a pledge to reduce plastic, and having a sustainability table during freshman move-in.

#### **5. Campus Move Out (Katie/Greg)**

Move to next meeting.

#### **6. Other Business**

Green Kits – Current items include a drawstring bag, reusable towel, and paper pamphlets. The group intends to review what items and conversations would be the most effective way to introduce sustainability to first year students. Conversations would be more effective. Also waiting until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the semester would also be more effective as new students can become overwhelmed during orientation.

#### **7. Upcoming Events**

April 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm: PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network) Visits Stonehill

#### **8. Future Meetings:**

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 9AM



### **Environmental Stewardship Council Meeting**

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome**

#### **2. Approval of March 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes**

#### **3. Membership List Update**

Each fall, Craig emails department heads to confirm appointments. The new registrar, Katie Walo, has said she is interested in joining.

The entire group is thankful for the students – they really carried the group forward this year. They put in a significant amount of effort and planned effective campaigns.

#### **4. Sustainability Interns – Ava & Emma**

They created a petition and held a raffle. Students received one ticket for signing the petition, and another for following on Instagram or participating in the clean-up. There were lines at the table outside Shields from 9am-4pm. The clean-up was done around the rec fields and pond. Waste Management suggested a “break free from plastic” petition. They provided stickers and a banner.

They gathered over 200 signatures and will present the petition to the President for his signature. First, they are continuing to collect signatures through friends and student groups who were unable to sign on Earth Day. They expect up to 300 more signatures. They dedicated their efforts to Sydney Ledoux, a beautiful soul who passed unexpectedly last fall.

#### **5. Campus Move Out (Greg)**

Due to Katie’s (Res Life) departure, we are not prepared for move-out. Boxes can be put out like last year but participation will be a challenge and it was a lot of work last year.

Student interns will reach out to the president of the RHA to have people sign up to help out.

Per Greg, it took 4-6 hours to get boxes assembled, labeled and distributed to the residence halls. Facilities Management helped a lot last year as well. Due to the amount of work, the group needs to evaluate whether this is impactful for students.

#### **6. Reuzzi First-Years**

Containers can be used at The Hill, GiGi’s, and May Hall (ABP), but not at Holy Cross or The Commons due to the meal plan change to an “all you care to dine” program.

## 7. Green Kits

Katie had offered to take it over but is leaving. Greg reached out to vendors to get items donated and is open suggestions for future green kids. Fr. Tim has been helpful with handing them out and providing feedback. No coupons for free cups were redeemed at Dunkin. The Green Kits require a lot of effort but seem to get lost in the shuffle of the new academic year. Student interns will help provide feedback on more useful items.

Green Kits will be postponed this year, and reevaluated next year. The table at Earth Day was much more impactful, especially with raffles.

## 8. Student Sustainability Interns for Fall '24 (sample email below)

Cheryl, Greg and Laurie interviewed and hired three interns for this semester and will do the same for the fall semester. The sample email below will be used to advertise for the positions.

Per current interns, having people work on specific areas was useful and effective. Also, meeting every week on Tuesdays, and having a plan for the week.

The goal is to have a core of students with a strong foundation in sustainability (some schools call them eco-reps). The Commons may need its own student to work with the dining provider.

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### Student Sustainability Intern Sample Email

☀️ Student Job Opportunity ☀️

Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the environment? Stonehill is on a mission to move closer to zero waste, and we need your help! 🌍

🌱 Position: Sustainability Leader

🌍 Hours: 5 hours/week

💰 Pay: \$15/hour (for work study eligible students)

☀️ Provide brief reports to the Environmental Stewardship Council each month

**Job Description:** As a Sustainability Leader, you will have the chance to organize and mobilize initiatives on composting, recycling, move-out, and Reuzzi reusable to-go containers. Your efforts will play a crucial role in reducing our carbon footprint and creating a greener campus. 🌱

Join us in making a difference! Apply today and be a key part of the change as we reimagine the next academic year. Let us know that you're interested and [apply now](#) for work study funds for the fall semester.

Together, we can build a more sustainable future for Stonehill College. ♻️ 🤝

**Apply:** Email Greg Wolfe, [gwolfe@stonehill.edu](mailto:gwolfe@stonehill.edu), and Laurie Mooney, [lmooney@stonehill.edu](mailto:lmooney@stonehill.edu).

We look forward to hearing from you! ❤️ ❤️ ❤️