

**Sustainability Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2012**

**Attendance:**

Christian Ryan-Downing, John Osborne, Gordon Baylis, Thea Browder, Brian Sullivan, Dale Dyer, Josh Twardowski, Helen Siewers, Sharmila Pradham, Brian Sullivan, Robin Hume, Sara Ferguson, Jennifer Tougas, Ouida Meier

**Agenda for Sustainability Committee – Feb 8, 2012**

**Info items:**

1. AASHE STARS 2012 reporting
  - a. The committee offered positive feedback on the 2011 Sustainability Report – AASHE STARS Edition. Ouida Meier reminded that the Publications office has offered to potentially create an interactive on-line version. Christian will re-visit that with publications.
  - b. The committee has suggestions for improved reporting for the 2012 year.
    - Dr. Baylis offered funding support for a graduate assistant position to help capture data and information on present initiatives and also to work on development of new initiatives.
    - Sharmila Pradhan offered to conduct a “how to motivate people to help when nothing to offer” training to the Graduate Assistant who will be soliciting data and information for the next report.
    - Jennifer Tougas noted that a car-sharing program, improved modal split, and Master Plan could all potentially be reported for credit in 2012.
2. The President’s Award for Sustainability – solicitation of nominations
  - a. The committee will begin to seek nominations. The Office of Sustainability and ICSR will send out a joint announcement that we are seeking nominations for the President’s Sustainability and Service Awards. Ouida suggested that one approach to help make it easier for nominators might be to send a message to nominees saying “you have been nominated for... please assemble the following material for submission with your nomination”.
3. Green Campus Network update – new name, newsletter
  - a. The Green Campus Network will change its name to *Power Save Campus* June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
  - b. The February issue of the Green Pages was distributed to committee members.
4. Earth Day planning – Earth Day festival will be Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, with events throughout the preceding week.
  - a. Students (GreenToppers) are planning to send a letter to faculty encouraging them to “teach in” this Earth Day. Dr. Baylis agreed to endorse such an initiative, so when the letter is ready, students will send to him for review and support.
  - b. Committee members are encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including planning support, volunteering on the day of the event, getting students involved.

5. Innovations in Sustainability Endowment Fund –
  - a. Ouida gave a brief history of the fund and described the idea contest “How would you green WKU?” conducted two years ago. The same contest will be conducted again this year, with the winners to be announced at the Earth Day Festival. Ouida will update posters and other publicity material.
6. Education for Sustainability Gateway –

Nancy Givens requested this topic for possible discussion by committee. It is necessary to find a mechanism to continue to update and maintain the Gateway, and if this is not possible, some content may need to be integrated into the Sustainability website and the Gateway discontinued. The committee agreed to table this discussion item until the next meeting since Nancy and Terry Wilson were both absent and unable to provide information. Questions posed by the committee were: how many viewers does the Gateway receive? To what extent is it being used as a resource? Is it possible to have a student maintain the Gateway? Could it be adopted as part of the Academic Affairs website?

**Action Items:**

1. Prepare proposal for Graduate Assistantship for AASHE STARS 2012 project for Dr. Baylis and Mr. Osborne. (Christian)
2. Publicize President’s Award for Sustainability.

Christian will work with the ICSR on a joint email announcement to all faculty and staff and to students, and will get a story in the College Heights Herald.

Committee members will solicit nominations. (Challenge: Each committee member will bring in at least one nomination.)
3. Launch “How would you green WKU?” contest. (Ouida)
4. Committee members will consider how they can support the annual Earth Day Festival, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – engaging students, volunteering, etc.
5. Review campus Sustainability Plans for discussion topic at next meeting – Does the committee want to create a Sustainability Plan for WKU? (*This is an initiative suggested by the AASHE STARS tool.*) Examples of campus Sustainability Plans can be viewed at [aashe.org](http://aashe.org)

**Other business:**

Topics of plastic waste and local foods were raised by committee members. Christian will work with John Osborne to bring these issues to Coca Cola and Dining Services to see how we can work with these partners to improve in these areas. Christian and John will report back on progress at the next meeting.