

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

7-15-09

In attendance: Robin Hume, Greg Fear, Cristin Lanham, Dale Dyer, Beth Chesson, Larry Page, Anita Britt, Nick Asher, Sara Ferguson, John Coe, Tammi Beach, Denise Gravitt, Helen Siewers, Seth Cude, Christian Ryan-Downing

1) Stormwater Quality Management Plan

University campuses are MS4 designation so must develop plan for stormwater quality management, as mandated by the EPA and Division of Water.

Beth Chesson, Senior Project Manager for Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc explained the reasons for and process of developing such a plan. She will be working with us throughout the process:

- a. 3 days of interviews are being conducted with team members and other stakeholders
- b. Implementation will occur over the next 5 years starting with most crucial
 - 1. Phase 2: Water Quality
 - a. Huge Education Component- publics training, outreach, and personal services
 - b. BG is in phase 1 and 2 compliant for more than 5 years
 - c. We are not by contract tied to the city, but hydrologically linked
 - i. Dealing in a KARST environment
 - a. Don't use retention basins or wetlands
 - b. Infiltration standards coming for karst situations.
 - ii. New Development and Redevelopment
 - a. Retrofitting is not necessary, existing sites are grandfathered in and can be offset by management practices elsewhere
 - iii. Rain Gardens and Bioswales < 12 inches
 - a. Only hold water during rain and event and do not encourage (as much) new sinkholes.
 - iv. Documentation: we should be audited at least once per cycle
 - v. LEED certification standards completed should be included
 - vi. Reports should be filed annually with Kentucky Department of Water
 - vii. Whose responsibility? Most cumbersome aspect.
 - d. How do we respond to questions pertaining to cost?
 - i. A lot of cost projected takes into consideration existing assets
 - ii. After implementation, approximately \$50,000 annually
 - e. Staying in compliance by outlining projected activities as less than what you can actually can do (so you're always ahead of schedule)
 - 2. FINE? Up to \$10000 daily when noncompliant
 - 3. Plan development team is being assembled and will be guided by Mark Pendley.

2) Updates

A. Pollution Prevention Subcommittee

1. E-Scrap Update – we have contracted with Creative Recycling Solutions to provide responsible e-scrap recycling. They will pick up from Surplus and have already made first pick-up of one semi-load. Outlined procedures, acceptable items
2. Recycling: New Bins - Locations and protocol briefly addressed
3. Composting: pre-consumer waste from campus dining halls to begin this summer – intended to be used in student organic garden at the WKU Farm

B. Green Idea Contest, Seth Cude

1. 4 Winners, ideas discussed
2. Winning idea was retrofitting university shuttles to operate on batteries, second place was an algae to biofuel plan, third was reducing boiler temps in residence halls
 - a. Discussion of publication of ideas, release from authors
 - b. Christian discusses TopScholar – Sustainability archive exists where we can post all research documents, paper, videos, and other media.

C. Fundraising:

Green Fund thru the WKU Foundation now established, brochure is in development, and the fund is set up for payroll deduction. Sustainability was featured in the Spring issue of the WKU Spirit.

3) Energy Trends update from Dale Dyer

A. Dale showed us some comparisons of energy use and costs over the past five years. This year energy use down substantially – 4 million KWH, but cost still rose by \$600,000.

1. Cost increased by 12.64%, campus grew by 4.52%, usage decreased by 6.32%
2. Questions by committee: decrease in use attributable to:
 - a. Weather? (Yes in part).
 - b. Unused buildings? (No, because electricity still in use)
 - c. What is the stadium expansion contribution? (At this point unknown, but metering and building by building analysis coming soon)

B. Dale attributes most of our energy savings to conservation, especially from temperature setbacks in buildings.

**see Dale's power point presentation for detailed energy related data. It will be posted on our Blackboard site.*

C. Housing and Residence Life will have real-time energy feedback dashboard website by this fall.

**We will have a demo at our next meeting, but if you're curious, check out:*

<http://www.oberlin.edu/dormenergy/>

4) PIE Energy Conservation Grants:

One funded to date – submitted by Marc Eagle of the History Department. The grant will be used to purchase occupancy sensors for all classrooms and smart power strips for all offices in Cherry Hall. DFM supplies labor for installation of sensors.

5) Recognition of individuals that have earned LEED AP:

“Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional” KUDOS to:

PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Victoria Coots, Project Manager, Renovations

Natasha Smith, Senior Project Manager, Renovations

Debbie Pace, Assistant Project Manager, Capital Construction

Dan Chaney, Project Manager, Capital Construction

Kerra Ogden, Project Manager, Capital Construction

Helen Siewers, Landscape Architect

Ben Johnson, Assistant Director

Bryan Russell, Director

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Dale Dyer, Plant Operations Manager

Greg Fear, Campus Services Manager

OGDEN COLLEGE

Dr. Denise Gravitt, Architect & Manufacturing Sciences

AND

Christian, Sustainability Coordinator

6) Johnson Control is offering training opportunities in alternative energy applications.

How do we want to structure this? Possibilities include:

1. Solar- professional development for faculty and staff
2. Certificate program for students and others
3. JCI rate: approximately 150\$ per person, students free
4. Helen Siewers suggests working with Homebuilder’s association, and licensing board to involve them as partners.

7) Nancy Givens will talk to council of Academic Deans about the Green Fund and the Sustainability Portal – update next meeting.

8) Christian will talk to Board of Regents about progress in sustainability at July 31st meeting, as requested by President Ransdell.

9) Future meeting schedule:

Committee meetings will be held during academic year and possibly a retreat during summer.

Committee consensus is that this will lead to maintaining momentum and better attendance.

Meeting dates for the entire year will be established and posted by end of summer. Meetings will be in: September, November, February, April.

10) New Sustainability website:

Sneak-peak of site was shown, and the site will be launched soon. The website includes a calendar that can be accessed and added to by anyone, and features links to a Sustainability Committee page, the Green Fund, and other info. The site includes the ability to post videos, a flicker photo album, and a blog. WKU Sustainability is now on Twitter as well - follow us: GogreenWKU.

11) Sustainability Curriculum Development:

It is proposed that the Sustainability Committee recognize Dr. All and the existing faculty committee on this topic as a formal subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee, to strengthen our committee and support their effort. Dr. Ritchie Taylor has been selected by Dr. All to represent the faculty committee in Dr. All's absence. Dr. Taylor will be included in next meeting's agenda to give us a review of integration of sustainability into curriculum.

12) Call for submissions for WKU sustainability report:

Denise Gravitt suggests Habitat for Humanity should be included for demolition reuse/recycle efforts.

13) New business for next meeting:

- A. Outreach and education subcommittee
- B. Purchasing policy

14) New sustainability position, *Sustainability Educator*, will be posted by week's end. The Office of Sustainability is expanding!