

***Learning Green, Living Green* Steering Committee Meeting Notes Frostburg State University's Sustainability Initiative**

Thursday, November 13, 2008
4:00pm – 6:00pm, LUC 202.

Members present: Joan Andorfer, Skott Brill, Paul Kazyak, Patrick O'Brien, Becca Ramspott, Lisa Rodgers, Jeff McKinley, Kara Rogers-Thomas, Jeff Sellers, Ann Townsell, Monika Urbanski.

Members absent: Sydney Duncan, Jason Litten, Bud Precht, Dana Severance, Bill Seddon, Hilkat Soysal, Oguz Soysal, Dave Arnold, Ray Blank, Mikal Crawford, Karla Diehl, Elaine Raesly, Alan Snyder, Karen Treber, Sam White.

Guest: Jeff Wheeler

- A. Jeff Wheeler and Bio-fuel Conversion – Mr. Wheeler from New York state comes to FSU as a guest of Dr. Gibraltar. His converted Volkswagon Beetle has the ability to run on vegetable oil. The conversion kit cost Mr. Wheeler \$1,500 and was installed by Mr. Wheeler and a mechanic. The converted Bug has been running for two years. Although vegetable is used as the primary fuel, the engine still uses gasoline for startup and warming up. Mr. Wheeler must “purge” the fuel lines before and after every startup to ensure that there is no vegetable oil in the fuel lines. Overall, Mr. Wheeler is happy with his choice of converting his vehicle. According to him, the biggest drawback is the time it takes to filter and prepare the oil. The advantage is that he uses much less gasoline than even the most fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles. Following the display, Mr. Wheeler showed a presentation on the science and mechanics of converting a vehicle to run on vegetable oil.
- B. 2008 Conference on Sustainability by the *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)* - On November 9 and 10, three LGLG representatives had the privilege of attending this year's AASHE Sustainability Conference. Based on what they learned at the conference, the three of them are in the process of developing a list of “best practices” for sustainability on college campuses. The efforts taking place around us provide tremendous motivation to move forward on our own sustainability initiatives. On Monday November 24, 2009, Kara, Patrick, and Jeff will present their findings from the conference in a presentation on sustainability in higher education. The event is scheduled at 4:30pm in Compton room 226. The presentation will also be posted on the LGLG web site.
- C. 2009 National Teach-in on Sustainability and Climate Awareness. The first planning meeting for the sustainability teach-in, similar to last year's *Focus the Nation*, will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. Anyone interested in becoming

involved in the planning process for the teach-in is welcome to participate. Some key agenda items for this initial meeting are to 1) decide on a name for the independent teach-in, 2) settle on a day and time, preferably during the week of Earth Day, and 3) begin delegating tasks for volunteers.

D. Updates

1. Sustainability Coordinator Position – Due to budget issues facing the State of Maryland, the search for a Sustainability Coordinator has been put on hold until further notice. Nonetheless, LGLG members feel strongly that Frostburg's Sustainability Initiative will not flourish without a permanent office for sustainability. This will remain at the forefront of our agenda until the budget situation improves and we get results.
2. Recycling Committee – FSU will participate in Recyclemania once again in 2009. This is a ten-week competition that allows colleges and universities to compete with one another on a national scale. John Brewer from facilities is conducting an inventory of recycling bins to determine how many are needed before the start of the competition. The hope is that new bins are in place by January 2009.
3. Energy Star – The Energy Star purchasing policy that was approved by the LGLG committee last spring is now in the revision stage. A proposed revision will be submitted by University Counsel for our input later this semester. Members will recall that establishment of an Energy Star purchasing policy by September 2009 is one of the tangible actions selected by the LGLG committee for compliance with the ACUPCC.
4. Survey of Green Behavior at FSU - Similar to the survey that was administered in December 2007, FSU students, faculty, and staff members will receive a request to complete a survey of green behavior sometime in spring 2009.
5. CLAS Curriculum – A committee within the CLAS faculty has been meeting regularly to identify a way to integrate sustainability into the curriculum. The next meeting is scheduled on December 3, 2008. CLAS committee members will continue to update us on progress in this area.
6. LGLG Webmaster for 2009 – The LGLG committee is looking for a new webmaster for the LGLG web site. Anyone interested should contact lglg@frostburg.edu.

E. New Initiatives

1. Local Foods Initiative – A committee has been established to work with Aramark to promote use of local foods on campus. For more information, please contact lglg@frostburg.edu.
2. Sustainability and Service Learning – Members of the FSU community are looking at ways to incorporate sustainability into service learning projects,

and we encourage FSU faculty to incorporate sustainable service learning in the classroom. For example, several faculty members plan to develop recycling activities in their classes. Anyone interested in taking part in this initiative should contact lglg@frostburg.edu.

3. Earth Week – The week of April 20 will be *Earth Week at FSU*. Rather than devote a day to environmental awareness, FSU constituents will have the opportunity to take part in activities throughout the week of Earth Day. Planning is still in progress and updates are forthcoming.

F. Climate Action Plan – On September 15, 2009, FSU will submit a Climate Action Plan in compliance with the President’s Climate Commitment. This plan will involve a great deal of preparation. As a result, the LGLG committee will meet more regularly in the spring semester. Meetings will be scheduled every two weeks for a minimum of two hours. Membership for LGLG will be open to anyone interested. The LGLG executive team will seek the President’s help in recruiting and retaining additional members.

G. Scheduling – Meetings in spring 2009 will be scheduled on Thursdays at 3:30pm. Committee members will receive an update on exact dates before the close of the semester.

H. Wrapping it up – The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.