

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

Thursday, February 12, 2009

3:30pm – 5:30pm, President's Board Room.

Present: Paul, Kelly, Ann, Bill, Dr. G, Doug, April, Sydney, Becca, Dave Arnold, Rachel, Matt, Jeff, Kara, Monika

Notes

1) Updates

--Energy Star

We put out a policy that was not the policy of the group—miscommunication. Pres. G has corrected that and the new policy—committee policy is going through.

We have approval to send out this new policy –

2) Recyclemania

Monika has been getting inquiries. Send those about bins to John. Most of those go to his office anyway. If anyone has questions, they should refer to John Brewer. We may have a few extra bins right now.

John—it's difficult to keep on top of it. We are doing our best. We have developed a schedule for student pick up. He's thinking of ways to make the program better. Trying to let him take it and run with it himself.

Doug- doing an inventory of residence halls –some have more than enough, others don't have any. Doug has an inventory list with a request. He may be missing a couple.

Monika—Recyclemania –is submitting weights from John Diamond. We're in week 3 but week one and two won't count. We have about seven more weeks to go. There was a lot of snow the first week.

Kara is launching a campaign through her classes.

Becca is having Patrick O'Brien attend SGA to get their involvement as well.

3) Earth Week

We will have a week of Earth Day and we are scheduling events. Focus Frostburg Event on Tuesday. We're in the process of a Keynote speaker with a BBQ on Monday. Wednesday will be a Day of Action—planting trees, Rain Barrel and Rain Gardens. Thursday may be a low key day –Patrick may organize some events.

Patrick will be the coordinator for Earth Week. We want to put together a marketing campaign that pools together an entire week's worth of activities.

Paul—DNR folks are enthusiastic about it—we will have these activities scheduled for Thursday.

4) Public Relations

There has been a lot more communication through our account recently. Looking at finding ways to get more people on that account –user wise. By doing that we should be able to have more people in the loop. Until we get a coordinator, that might work out well for communication.

5) Rachel Going Green with Dr.G

Changing the name Down to Earth, Get Your Head Out of the Clouds
Embracing the Earth, Student Involvement, Education –easy ways to care for the earth. We need cam. People, but the rest of the crew is put together. It should air soon. Our guest for Earth Week is Sunshine. The show is taped 3-5
Feb 20 March 13 April 24 May 1
These will air on TV 3.

Dr. G—the format will be similar. One guest and two features. We will have some features that require going on shoots.

Becca—we have footage from last year that we can use. BobECat being environmentally aware. If we need help publicizing, we can work through the publicity office on campus working with Liz Medcalf.

Dr. G—this has been TV debut, last semester was a lot of fun.

6) Upcoming Events

April –March 5-6

CHILL will be looking to faculty and staff to promote wellness among themselves. Present 30 minutes on a topic that promote wellness. Can do anything that ties to wellness to educate peers. Also 20 minute programs learning how to distress at work. Distress at work, breathing, stretches. LGLG would be perfect for something educational. Being green also helps to promote wellness. If anyone has something that they would like to share, please contact April.

Rachel—foods

Bill—maybe we can do something on nutrition. Has been having health issues and has changed his diet—very challenging.

Sydney—might be interesting to get Aramark involved.

April—did approach Aramark am working with them.

Dr. G—they are trying to change their business practices, struggle with buying local and maybe CHILL is a way to get over the stereotypes—belief that this is what the students want and if we don't offer it, they won't eat there.

Dave—and the profs deal with the sugar crash

Rachel and April—energy drain is a problem

Becca—we have talked about people walking to work and maybe we can revisit that issue. We did an initial analysis. Did research on the distance that FSU students and faculty (Bud P) did a nice visual presentation did mapping to show where students, faculty and staff lived around campus. Trying to build a campaign off of that but other things came up. He'd be a good person to work with.

April—we are talking about where walking paths should be.

7) Nemaquin LGLG thread. Yearbook has been launched. They need a two page spread on LGLG—Sydney—how about you?

Jeff has been in contact with them as well. Someone had been working on it, they've started over, Jeff has been giving Stacy some basic information. Jeff seems to be facilitating. He can work with Sydney.

Becca—should also attend some events—not sure what the deadlines are.

Monika—we do have photos from last year's.

8) While we're mentioning the mag. We are looking for student submissions—
March 24. Anything 200-1000 words, digital artwork, photographs.

From here on...

Climate Action Plan

Several did send research and homework.

What would be best and most efficient would be to set up something on the U Drive, we'll get plans from others. Can have open access for everyone.

Monika's supervisor, Rob Smith will be an internal consultant on helping us structure our working groups. Based on his input, we've developed a working plan... see handout.

Looked at implementation guide.

We won't have enough representatives who attend regularly to form enough committees with enough people...

Have developed working groups

The number of LGLG members, outside members

We need facilities folks

We need more scientists at the table—those who know the lingo of the natural sciences.

Dr. G will talk to Dean Hoffman about this as well. There may be more people that we can pull onboard.

On the U Drive FSU Carbon FootPrint. This gives us a graph of our emissions as they stand right now. Electricity is our main source of emissions. This has been updated and will continue to be updated annually.

The drop from this year to last may have something to do with the renewable energies we've purchased. We already have results!

The writing team can be made up of working members of other groups, work mainly comes in Spring and Summer. Can also work on other working groups.

Campus Emissions—facilities, data folks

Mitigation Strat. –the meet of the plan.

Dave –there are a number of items that also need to be included in that.

Dr. G – we shouldn't be confined by the plan.

Dave – this is about sustainability

Paul – with Ches. Bay we are limited in our focus and if we looked at other elements there might be a greater benefit.

Dr. G –showerheads, John is working on giving us an estimate on water bills.

Education/Research/Community Outreach

CLAS Sustainability

The Soysals are LGLG members, they won't be active members in meetings, but they can probably provide some perspective as outside researchers.

Pres. G was at PACE a couple of weeks ago, as he walked around and was talking to people, so many said, we want you to see that we've built sustainability into our business and it started because of Frostburg. There are many people who we aren't aware of who have taken an interest in Sustainability.

Paul—our State Parks are coming along. They are going to be real advocates for outreach and education.

Becca—publicity

Dave --...didn't catch it all –something about group homework.

Finance –expenses and funding sources.

The executive team has been looking at meeting with folks from the Advancement Office. Can we do a Sustainability fund, can we possibly get large business donors?

We don't have anyone working on grant writing for Sustainability related funding sources.

We should be looking into Federal Earmarks

Tracking Progress Group—Monika's office may have a stake in that. We did have a survey and we would like to implement that again and keep that going to see if we're seeing improvements.

Facilitators and Outside Recruitment –LGLG members need to be facilitating this.

Discussion

The assignment was to research one or two institutions per person and the link to Maryland.

Rachel—Berkeley, UCLA, University of Colorado-Boulder
Berkeley started with a student group, Cal. Climate Action Partnership, then joined another group by 2007 did inventory, evaluated their project. 1990 levels by 2014 they haven't set a goal of elimination, but reduction
Want to create a position for someone to monitor the University's Sustainability efforts.

All three Universities have bicycle plans
Roller blading on campus too
Renewable energy credits
Automated lighting
Carbon offsets
A lot of the things that we're doing

UCLA takes \$4 for the Green Initiative Fund

Colorado offered incentive for students to buy a portion of wind or solar power –students contributing individually to alternative power.
They also have solar powered boards—soda machines more energy efficient.
Campus Resource Conservation Officer
Also have a pledge card with \$5 donated per cardholder.

The Pledge Card, you could incorporate a number of things into those pledge cards.
Monika we could do a number of pledge cards to launch at Earth Week.

Becca –there are pledge cards online as well
They also have students buy green energy.

Monika maybe the financing group could consider including something on the fee structure. Would you support a semester fee toward sustainability?
Dr. G. This would have to go through our Regents and they only meet once a year.

We do have a model of that sort with the Lane Center.
Maybe the time delay is a good thing it will give us time to plan it out

William and Mary—aren't as far along, but they are going to do est. a policy that supports sustainability shareholder proposals.

Jeff –Tufts University

Also put out a student referendum and that was overwhelmingly approved by students, but the Regents didn't make it mandatory, so they made it voluntary and let students donate individually. They seemed optimistic about it.

Dr. G. I think that if the students voted for it, the Board of Regents would approve it.

This is a good avenue for contributing.

Duke University –parking is the fee. They increased parking costs and all the money raised from that goes toward sustainability. That encouraged people to use alternative modes of transportation.

Also at Tufts, worked out a collaboration with Mass Tech. group and anytime a student donated money toward buying renewable energy, the Tech group would match double the funds to go toward the University to do Sustainability outreach. Gave the University \$

Oberlin

General overview direct reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration and land use—planting trees. Emission offsets. They are CN by 2020.

Also wanted to support the College Trustees to support this.

Evergreen has very specific areas for funding Sustainability. Targeted gifts on behalf of Sustainability.

Paul –Green Endowment pushed the idea of green investment. This is a smart thing for you to do—great return on investment.

Kelly—Middlebury

They do have five things they go through—they aimed big for what they wanted to tackle. They have a windturbine to run their recycling center. Give students the opportunity to have a clothes drying rack instead of using dryers. Also brought in climate change experts to come in and build that support. Compost pile—

Short term emissions targets ...and kept upping the ante

Good discussion.

Now for the groups! By the next meeting we want to start setting our deadlines

Writing Group—can hold off on that
April, Becca

Campus Emissions—John Brewer and John Diamond

Mitigation Strategies—Doug, Dave, Jeff
--may want to review Chapter 4 of Maryland's plan.
Dave to facilitate

Education, Research, Community Outreach—Kara, Sydney, Ann, Patrick, Kelly and Paul

Financing—Becca, Joan Andorfer

Progress—Monika
Maybe Karla, Joyce Wheaten, Liz Keller,

Paul says—be aggressive. We need to be on the front side of this. Put it out there and then find a way to do it.

The task for the next meeting will be to complete our research and to start writing an outline. We can do what we're doing now and discuss within our groups what we want to do.