

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

Thursday, February 26, 2009
3:30pm – 5:30pm, President's Board Room.

Members present: Paul Kazyak, Kelly Martin, John Brewer, Monika Urbanski, Patrick O'Brien, Sydney Duncan, April Baer, Doug Baer, Becca Ramspott, Bill Seddon, Jeff Sellers, Dan Fiscus, Steve Ornstein

Guest and acting secretary: Julia Urbanski

The meeting commenced at 3:30pm

A. Updates

1. Senate Bill 941 – A new bill has been proposed by members of the Maryland Senate that calls for purchases made by the Secretary of General Services to be Energy Star certified whenever applicable. The bill is currently under review.
2. Paperless campaign – Recent faculty/staff email communication indicates that there is an interest to stem paper promotions on campus as much as possible. Committee members were reminded that, as a subset of the Waste Minimization action selected for the ACUPCC, FSU has committed to working towards the replacement of paper product promotions with online alternatives. The committee generated some ideas for promoting this action:
 - Changing the student email system. The current system does not allow FSU users to send emails to all students.
 - Take advantage of summer and intersession times to make announcements about the push for paperless communications.
 - Use of LCD screens in student areas in lieu of posters.
 - Use of Facebook for announcing events
 - Offering a faculty/staff workshop on "Going Paperless in your Office"
 - Consider use of sidewalk chalk for student promotions. Care should be taken to ensure that chalk used is environmentally friendly.

On a related note, there is interest in demonstrations of energy generated through human activities. For example, a pedal-watt bike could demonstrate the amount of bicycle pedaling required to power a light bulb. Little technology currently exists to develop this.

3. Earth Week –

- Kara Rogers Thomas is working to secure a keynote speaker for Earth Week activities. Possible dates include Wednesday or Thursday.
 - The deadline for submitting Focus Frostburg presentation information to miurbanski@frostburg.edu is Friday, March 6, 2009.
 - Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day) will be a day of action. Activities will be announced soon.
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Workshop, Towson, MD on March 4 – All LGLG committee members are invited to register for the workshop to learn about new strategies for updating FSU’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
5. Carbon Zero Hero webinar – Dr. Gibraltar will host the webinar in the President’s Conference Room on Wednesday, March 11 at 2pm. The invitation will be extended to all students, faculty, and staff.

B. Climate Action Plan (CAP) –

1. Updates on working group membership.

- Dr. Bill Seddon has been added as a member of the Mitigation Strategies working group.
- Dr. Karla Diehl and Ms. Harriet Douglas will be added as members of the Tracking Progress working group.

2. Group-specific discussion –

- Most working groups are in the early phase of development for making contributions to the CAP.
- The Community Outreach working group prompted a discussion of how we define community outreach. It was determined that outreach should benefit the community and should be limited to our region. The best community outreach strategies will engage students and will include research and educational outreach efforts as well. It was determined that, although the ultimate goal of the CAP is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions at an institutional level, a successful community outreach initiative may not directly affect emissions levels.

3. Carbon Neutrality timeline – LGLG members identified some goals for development of a timeline for reaching carbon neutrality at FSU:

- Consider state goals in development of target dates, but stay ahead of the curve as far as state-level mandates are concerned.
- Incorporate the One Hundred Months methodology: We have approximately eight years to make policy changes that affect climate change. Scientists estimate that in eight years the planet will reach a

tipping point at which time climate change will escalate and its effects will become irreversible.

- Be mindful of the economic situation
- Establish tentative target dates now and revisit these after working groups have completed their research.

C. TENTATIVE Carbon Neutrality Timeline (for follow-up and review in subsequent meetings this spring)

Base year is 2006

- 15 percent reduction by 2010
- 20 percent reduction by 2014
- 25 percent reduction by 2016
- 50 percent reduction by 2020
- 100 percent reduction by 2030

D. Meeting wrap-up – The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 12, 2009. The focus of the next meeting will be on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and mitigation strategies. Tasks for this meeting include completion of group-specific research and development of group-specific outlines.