

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

Split meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup> 5pm – 7pm and November 14<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12pm in the Dean's Council Room, Compton 237.

The first section of the Learning Green, Living Green (LGLG) steering committee began at 5pm in Compton Hall 237 on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Members present at this session included: Joan Andorfer, Skott Brill, Karla Diehl, Sydney Duncan, Paul Kazyak, Jim Limbaugh, Jason Litten, Patrick O'Brien, Bud Precht, Jeff Sellers, and Monika Urbanski.

The second session of the LGLG steering committee began at 10am in Compton Hall 237 on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Members present at the second session included: Dave Arnold, Mikal Crawford, Jim Limbaugh, Keramat Poorsoltan, Becca Ramspott, Lisa Rodgers, Bill Seddon, Dana Severence, Alan Snyder, Kara Rogers Thomas, Karen Treber, Monika Urbanski, and Sam White.

Members absent from both sessions include Ray Blank, Dave Firman, Richard Scott, Oguz Soysal, and Robert Larivee

### MEETING AGENDA

#### A. Updates

1. New *Learning Green, Living Green* website is live! For review, the URL is [www.frostburg.edu/lglg/](http://www.frostburg.edu/lglg/).
2. Name change and trademarks. The name *Learning Green, Living Green*, has been adopted because there are legal implications for using "Green Campus Initiative".
3. ACUPCC report. Jim Limbaugh submitted FSU's three tangible actions before the deadline of Nov. 15.
4. AASHE Piloting Study. FSU will be considered as a participant in a non-competitive piloting study through the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

#### B. ENERGY STAR Policy Review

1. Alan Snyder and Monika Urbanski developed a draft ENERGY STAR policy to be reviewed and approved by the committee. Committee members were asked to review the policy in their spare time and come prepared to discuss recommendations at the next meeting.
2. The question was asked on how to enforce a policy when the purchasing system at FSU is so decentralized.
  - Joan Andorfer suggested providing the FSU community with a list of vendors who will promote ENERGY STAR rated products. This information can be added to the FSU website.

- Another suggestion is to contact Department chairs and Office managers and inform them of the policy once it has been enacted.
- There is strong desire among committee members to quantify data on the impact of the ENERGY STAR policy. Will more people choose ENERGY STAR products, and if so, how will it affect our carbon footprint? Methods for this may include procurement audits or faculty/staff surveys. Because of this concern, we are adding a question about ENERGY STAR to the Survey of Green Behavior that will be sent to the FSU community later this month.

### C. Discussion on GIS Data

#### 1. Bud Precht presented a proximity study of FSU employees and students.

- The employee data came from a database provided by HR that included all permanent and contingent II employee addresses, names excluded.
- The student data came from a query created by Reid Bluebaugh which was limited to 1037 local addresses. This analysis may not be accurate in all cases because of missing zip code information and because some students have not updated their local addresses with the Registrar, causing these to default to the home address.

#### 2. Analysis

- Employees – 50.3 percent of all employees live within five miles of the FSU clock tower. 23 percent of all employees live within one mile of the FSU clock tower.
- Students – 70.6 percent of all students live within one mile of the FSU clock tower.

#### 3. Committee members were asked how we can put this information to use for FSU Sustainability. Recommendations included:

- Organize walk to campus days.
- Partner with Physical Education and Recreation Departments to promote walking and physical exercise.
- Create incentives to get people interested in carpooling (e.g. Buddy-up pledge for carpooling with buttons and bumper stickers).
- Present the GIS information to ACT to develop more user-friendly bus routes.
- Centralized carpool board, either a physical location, or on-line.
- Committee members were impressed by the attractive presentation of the data and suggested that the aerial photo map be blown up and posted across campus. This information could also be displayed at Focus the Nation.

#### 4. The presentation on FSU proximity led to an animated discussion on transportation and parking in both sessions. Some committee members feel

that students and faculty have very little incentive to walk or use public transportation because parking lots are convenient and cheap. FSU charges faculty, staff, and off-campus students \$40 for yearly parking permits, while on-campus students pay nothing. Meanwhile, College Park charges well over \$200 for parking permits. Various suggestions and ideas were offered.

- One recommendation was to gradually move all parking lots to the outsides of campus.
- Another recommendation was to issue parking permits with more detailed coding. For example, students living in Edgewood Commons could obtain permits that allowed them to park only in the Stadium lot. Students living in downhill residence halls could obtain permits that allowed them to park only in the Foundation lot.
- A third recommendation involved issuing parking permits for different lots at variable rates. For example, a student purchasing a \$20 permit would be able to park in the Foundation lot and Stadium lot exclusively. However, a student could purchase a \$50 permit to allow access to all student lots. Proceeds could benefit the causes that promote environmental sustainability.
- Karen Treber reminded the committee that because of union issues, it will be nearly impossible to raise parking permit rates for faculty/staff.
- Karen also recommended providing the GIS data to the MD State Highway Administration, which is currently studying traffic patterns in Frostburg.

Committee members agree that the issues tied to transportation and parking are complicated, and need to be revisited, perhaps in a different format involving others.

#### D. Discussion on Thermal Imaging

1. Jason Litten invited a representative from FLIR, a company that sells thermal imaging cameras and software, to discuss its products. The representative demonstrated how the cameras sense heat loss and water damage in buildings and pick up on electrical malfunctions in engines, boilers, and other equipment.
  - The group observed various buildings on campus using the infra-red cameras.
  - Price range for the cameras span from \$6,000 to \$50,000.
2. Although it is not likely that FSU can justify purchasing such equipment when the structural deficit is so high, there are possible approaches to investigate:
  - Hire a thermal imaging consultant to inspect the buildings on campus in lieu of buying the equipment ourselves.
  - Paul Kazyak recommends that there may be grant money available through MD Energy Administration, especially if we use the camera for educational purposes or service learning.

#### E. "Cradle to Cradle" Ecosystem Design

1. Dan Fiscus has done research on the "Cradle to Cradle" concept. He advocates that instead of designing cradle-to-grave products, we should focus on creating products and technologies whose materials are perpetually circulated in closed loops.
2. To bring fresh ideas to the committee, we will invite Dan to an upcoming meeting to discuss this concept.
3. For more information on the cradle-to-cradle concept, visit [www.mbdc.com](http://www.mbdc.com).

#### F. Focus the Nation Updates

1. In preparation for Focus the Nation, which will take place on Thursday, January 31, 2008, the LGLG committee was presented with updates leading up to this event.
  - The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has issued private invitations to approximately 100 faculty and staff at FSU who are known to have an interest in environmental sustainability.
  - So far, roughly 25 individuals have signed up for sessions.
  - We are following up with an e-mail to all faculty, staff, and students to promote participation in Focus the Nation.
2. What other ideas can we come up with to help promote Focus the Nation?
  - Paul recommends making contact with some of the Keynote speakers that presented at the Power Shift 2007 Conference at College Park.
  - Local business owners should also be invited to present on best business practices.
  - We could partner up with high schools to open up sessions to them.

#### G. Subcommittees

1. LGLG committee members were asked to refer to the list of subcommittees currently recruiting. Members of various subcommittees were asked to provide updates on what has been happening.
  - Representing the Individual Actions subcommittee, Karla Diehl discussed the Survey of Green Behavior that will soon be issued to all faculty, staff, and students at FSU. The purpose of this survey is to get an understanding of the current level of awareness and action for the FSU community. In addition to the survey, the group is also creating a database of "if-then" statements.
  - Representing the Community Outreach and Partnerships subcommittee, Paul Kazyak provided an overview of our first meeting. Committee members agree to provide support to involve the community in the Focus the Nation event, including high school participation. The committee is also looking at ways to bring statewide focus to FSU by reintroducing natural environments and streambeds on FSU land.

- Representing the Recycling subcommittee, Jim Limbaugh passed out a list of the various items on campus that can be recycled. Aside from the typical items that are universally recyclable, we can also recycle metal, printer and copier toner cartridges, textbooks, three-inch floppy disks, fluorescent light bulbs, and electronic equipment. The subcommittee will also organize a recycling field trip to visit our recycling partners and get an idea of what happens to recycled goods once they leave FSU. Sam White also mentioned that the Board of Education accepts computer monitors for free.
  - Joan Andorfer requests that committee members help her recruit students for the Student Engagement subcommittee which she will be chairing. Becca recommended that this subcommittee work on creating a Facebook group for Learning Green, Living Green at FSU.
2. The discussion on recycling brought about a question regarding FSU's purchasing contracts for paper. Currently, FSU does not buy recycled paper for use within FSU.
    - One reason for this is that certain types of recycled paper products jam in copy machines more easily than do non-recycled paper products.
    - Keramat, who has had experience working for copying businesses, stated that the problem of jamming would be alleviated if copy machines were recalibrated. He indicated that the paper made with recycled goods is thicker, and this has to be taken into account.
    - Based on the interest in this area, the LGLG committee decided to discuss the feasibility of purchasing paper made from renewable resources over the next few months.
  3. Recruitment is still open for most subcommittees. Committee members are asked to spread the word to others or join subcommittees themselves.
- H. Regular Meetings – Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30pm. The location will be announced soon.
- I. Other Notes
1. Before adjourning the meeting, committee members were asked to think about low-lying fruit problems to tackle, as well as solutions and commitments that are cost-effective.
  2. Jason Litten indicated that there is confusion regarding energy terminology. Specifically, what does it mean if FSU consumed 21 million kWh of electricity in 2006? He will follow up on recommendations at the next meeting. Monika will add a discussion on kWh to the website.
  3. Ann Townsell indicated concern about the proper disposal method of compact fluorescent light bulbs, which contain mercury. The proper method of disposal is posted on the ENERGY STAR website. Monika will follow up and include recommendations on the website.

4. Keramat Poorsoltan is interested in creating projects in his Entrepreneurship class that involve making money through recycling and other sustainability endeavors. Ideas include reselling computers and other technology, and selling compost.
5. Sydney Duncan would like to invite members of the LGLG steering committee to visit her home next week to view the new solar panels that are being installed on her roof.
6. Karen Treber requests whether it would be possible to bring used batteries and paint from home to FSU to be properly disposed of.
7. Contact for FTN: Jim Minke, and how he reduced Sears' electric bill by ten percent.

## **TASKS BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING**

### **All**

- Send website recommendations and/or updates to Monika.
- Provide recommendations for ENERGY STAR procurement policy, to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Continued discussion on how to tackle parking and transportation issues
- Focus the Nation recruitment –Who wants to present???
- Discuss poster ideas for Energy conservation
- Develop a plan for disposing of CFLs