

Sustainability Council minutes, March 18, 2016

Attendance: recorded at 16

- Sustainability survey results
 - Kenefick Hall was scope of project; only those results have been analyzed so far.
 - Recycling came up as a frequent theme. Will work on updating that system as that as seen as a very visible sign of commitment to sustainability.
 - Next steps include Verdis Group talking to residents and staff in Kenefick, and then developing programs for both summer residents (more hotel-like) and residents next fall.
 - All-campus expected next month
- Area Examen
 - University-wide to recognize how each department/unit enhances the mission of Creighton as well as to consider institutional initiatives that continue propelling CU forward
 - 5 questions for each department to address. 2 address sustainability, at least partially:
 - #3: “How do we participate in and enhance academic excellence, community engagement, mission and identity, and stewardship of resources of the University?”
 - #4: How can we embrace and impact the issues of diversity, sustainability, service-learning, and institutional planning?”
- “Recycling Needs Help” Letter to the Editor in Creightonian
 - Numerous problems:
 - Not available in many locations (Harper specified)
 - Plastic waste from Starbucks; Sodexo concurs that Starbucks has brought in much more waste (trash *and* recycling) than anticipated
 - Drinks sold in glass bottles but no glass recycling
 - Should take immediate steps
- Electrical Vehicle charging stations: Proposal to expand infrastructure
 - Scott Williams and Jay Leighter are guiding an Independent Study project to determine a campus-wide network of charging stations
 - External partnership offering to pay approximately 80% of the costs (20% matching required by Creighton)
 - 11 charging stations, including 1 that would be open to the public.
 - Trying to develop campus-wide support.
 - Comments from Sustainability Council:
 - Future of vehicle so we may as well get in.
 - Put stations in the middle so we can get four cars instead of 2.
 - More higher powered stations would mean less stations
 - Can we run them right off the solar panels?
- Student update
 - Sustainability Alliance meets tomorrow: Earth Day planning.
 - Now “Jays Dig Deep” instead of Green Thumbs. Interested in composting, other things.
- Landscaping update:

- Tree planting for Arbor Day with Jays Dig Deep
- Ignatian Garden will be full again this year; will be a lottery for remaining plots
- Tree Campus USA award ceremony coming up
- Talking to EDGE to do a paid internship for tree inventory. More scientific evaluation to lead to new opportunities in tree planting.
- Sodexo update:
 - David Menzel in last Creightonian article about Starbucks. Starbucks does have a reusable mug that gives a discount on coffee (only).
 - All to-go containers (simply to go, Wareham Court) are corn-based. Not recyclable. Would we be better off having something recyclable?
 - Need bin for composting (chemistry has composters)
 - Coffee is all fair trade.
 - Composting is a GO. Want to start with Brandeis and Becker. Waiting for contract. Probably next fall. Pre- and post-consumer. Ben Edwards has been a leader in this.
 - Starbucks creates an incredible amount of cardboard and packing material. More than expected.

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is April 15 @ 2pm in Eppley 119. Canon will be here to talk about the upcoming changes in printers and their commitment to sustainability. Flying in special. Good opportunity to give feedback.
- Omaha's Earth Day event is Saturday, 4/16 from 11:00 – 6:00 in Elmwood Park
- Creighton's Earth Week celebration is April 18-22

Announcements:

- Wenninghoff CSA: Creighton University has partnered with [Wenninghoff Farm's Community Supported Agriculture Program](#) to have weekly bags of fresh produce delivered to the Creighton campus for an 18-week program, beginning June 20 through October 23. Deliveries will be to the Linn Building.

Proposal to Expand Electric Vehicle Infrastructure at Creighton University

Ian Santos-Meeker, Energy Technology, Class of 2016

Dr. Scott H Williams, Assistant Director, Energy Technology Program

As concerns about global climate change and energy security arise, society is moving to realize the benefits of electric vehicles (EVs). Foreseeing this development leads to smart deployment of necessary infrastructure to accommodate the shift to more sustainable modes of transportation. Cars spend the majority of their time parked at home and at work. University campuses accommodate both residents and employees, making such institutions attractive hosts for EV charging.

In March of 2015, four Energy Technology students led Creighton University Facilities to install the first two EV charging stations on campus. Since making charging stations available to the Creighton community, the number of faculty, staff, and students choosing EVs has more than doubled. A U.S. Department of Energy study shows that employees are 20-times more likely to choose a plug-in electric vehicle if their employer provides charging stations at work. In fact, five Creighton faculty members have explicitly stated their decision to purchase or lease an electric vehicle was due to the available of stations on campus.

Moving forward, a vision exists to build on recent success and strategically expand Creighton's EV charging infrastructure in a way that optimizes support for demand, further encourages the transition to clean transportation, maximizes sustainability and interdisciplinary benefits to the university, and cares for our common home by taking action on global climate change. Site selection and planning for the first two charging stations prioritized security and low cost hardware and installation. Creating a campus wide network of charging stations should involve a comprehensive planning process. Through the guidance of Professors Scott Williams of Energy Technology and Jay Leighter of Sustainability, the planning work will be conducted as Independent Study coursework by Ian Santos-Meeker. This project proposes to implement 11 new EV charging stations on campus. In so doing, Creighton University furthers campus sustainability efforts, as well as establishes leadership in sustainable transportation across Omaha and among Jesuit universities nationwide. This embodies Creighton's commitment to care for our common home by reducing emissions as an institution. Expanding EV charging infrastructure declares that as a university, Creighton values clean transportation options for our community. Additionally, one of the 11 charging stations will to be open to the public, which exemplifies our value of service to others.

The scope of this project includes developing cohesive, campus-wide support. This is an opportunity for the Creighton community to affirm the commitment to supporting clean transportation infrastructure. The principal investigators have met with a number faculty, staff and students to receive feedback and encouragement for this project, and will continue to seek out and foster campus-wide approval. The financial scope of this project, including ten campus charging stations and one public charging station is approximately \$25,000. Through an external partnership, 80% of the costs will be covered, with 20% in matching funds required from Creighton. A number of on-campus sources are expected to cover the remaining 20%. Creighton College of Arts and Sciences would be welcomed to show commitment and support for this proposal in order to provide students and faculty the opportunity to address ultimate questions of global climate change and transcendent values of service and justice.