

## Sustainability Council minutes, February 19, 2016

Attendance: recorded at 16

- Survey: gauge sustainability literacy, gather information about transportation (to calculate greenhouse gases), learn what is important to people at Creighton. Survey closes 3/4/16, so please take the survey and encourage others to do so. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CU2016Sustainability>
  - Approximately 600 responses so far. Approximately 1/6 are students.
  - Students do not read CU\_student\_news. Students will send to RDs.
- Recyclemania: Preseason is January 24- Feb 6. Competition is February 7-April 2. Need more advertisement.
- Student update
  - Resource consumption and energy use to do a competition in the residence halls – part of Earth Day. Some buildings are metered, some are not. Need to determine how to compare buildings – different types of energy and how buildings are used are complicating factors. Could match up two similar types of buildings (i.e. Kenefick and Heider, Opus and Davis)
  - GreenThumbs are getting up and running to do some gardening on campus, including medical students.
  - Composting: IRHG submitted information to Sodexo, but Sodexo needs more support. A “soft opening” in Becker and Brandeis over the summer. Compost could be used on campus, if they are able to bring it full-circle.
  - Sustainability Alliance: Earth Week April 18-22.
    - Tree Tuesday (Green Thumbs)
    - SCSJ: Student/faculty panel. Topic and people TBD
    - EVS: Wednesday
    - Climate Walk: Thursday
    - Sustainability Carnival on Friday: tabling, fun activities, food, dance, more
    - Alliance to submit request for money from CSU
    - Possibly shirts for the week
- Purchasing study update. This study focused on identifying perceptions, attitudes and behaviors of employees who are the decision makers for purchasing office supplies. Creighton was one of five universities to participate in the study. This research was funded by a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant where the ultimate outcome of understanding these perceptions and attitudes could possibly lead to recommendation altering policy and purchasing practices. The study was conducted by the Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), in conjunction with procurement and sustainability officials at Creighton University.

The main things we learned from the study are:

- People are willing to buy environmentally preferable products
- People are still not getting enough feedback that they should buy environmentally preferable products
- Policies of only purchasing recycled-content paper and reducing deliveries to once per week would be accepted and would reduce Creighton’s carbon footprint

Creighton lowered its environmental impact primarily through purchasing less paper. Savings from academic year 2013-14 to 2014-15 were (papercalculator.org):

- \$16,846
- 55 tons of wood
- 491 million BTUs of energy
- 38.3 metric tons greenhouse gas emissions,
- 343,146 gallons of water
- 28,884 pounds of solid waste

As a part of the study, purchasers received monthly bulletins informing them of different aspects of purchasing green. These bulletins have been distilled into smaller tips that are posted in Creighton Today every 2 weeks.

- A group of faculty, staff and students will be traveling to the Loyola-Chicago AJCU sustainability conference in March.
- STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting System) is almost complete. Thank you to all who collaborated on this tremendous undertaking. The data is also used for Princeton Review and Sierra Club Cool Schools.
  - School of Medicine will pay for half
  - Use the information for marketing
  - Need to talk to admissions about how students are more involved in sustainability
- Katherine Osterman to talk about US Green Building Council and opportunities to interact.
  - Works at Kiewit as a commissioning engineer; is on the board of the US Green Building Council Flatwater Chapter. Doing advocacy and outreach – Emerging Professionals and Students Committee Chair. Wants to be a resource at Creighton.
  - UNL and UNO have student chapters. Networking between students, but also with local, national and international folks.
  - Gauging interest on starting a student chapter. What they would do is up to the chapter. Could this be part of GreenJays? Would be connected with sustainability professionals in the area (architects, engineers, consultants, other influential people). Networking, educational opportunity.
  - Katherine can connect with students on an individual basis.

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is March 18 @ 2pm in Eppley 119.
- Omaha's Earth Day event is Saturday, 4/16 from 11:00 – 6:00 in Elmwood Park