

## Sustainability Council minutes, April 17, 2015

Attendance: recorded at 15

- Energy Technology students to update us on their project. This group was ere assigned a project to look at HVAC for the entire campus as a part of their Design and Rapid Prototyping class.
  - Last semester, looked at the entire system. Very open-ended. Need 5-year payback.
  - Decided to steer away from technical aspects, since Facilities and its contractors have that expertise.
  - Focus on student use. Did focus groups of random people and Deglman Hall.
    - Started with survey. Didn't go to all residence halls and didn't get info needed.
    - Got a good representation of student body with focus group. A great approach.
      - Asked about level of satisfaction. Not good – students take their own steps to change things.
      - Don't feel the need to conserve since it's already paid for unless they already have those values.
      - Open to changing habits if there is an incentive
      - Do they report issues? Most didn't know they could. Only complain among themselves. Most didn't know who Facilities Management was.
    - Found that there were 3 types of people: energy conserver, consumer, or everyday user.
    - Students learned how to survey and run a focus group
    - Need to figure out how to get info out to people.
    - Outcome of the project is to implement a contest between residence halls to see who reduces the most.
      - Use display screens in residence halls to display energy use. Not currently working. Not all buildings are metered yet. Most will be metered over the summer. Also add helpful tips for energy reduction and information on how to contact Facilities Management. Optimized Systems may help with funding an incentive.
      - Energy Tech has funding for paid internships for the summer and see if a student could take on this project for the summer and work out the details.
      - Will have as much of a plan in place as possible to hand off to the next person/group
      - Could do per capita or per square foot or percentage reduction
      - Students are very competitive – use competition
      - Have RAs/RDs help
- Discussion of pledge (Verdis Group) Verdis group has a proposal to do a sustainability pledge for faculty, staff and students. This is a way to encourage the campus to conserve energy. The group had many thoughts about this proposal:

- It would bring attention to issues
- Wouldn't hurt to try
- Overhead display might "guilt" them into it.
- Emails might "guilt" them, too
- Need to target smaller groups
- One-line emails. Even just in subject line, to get it in your brain. Don't need to be long.
- Seems expensive
  - Is the money better spent putting in motion-detectors, stickers on light switches, etc?
  - Train people to use lights
  - Put money into campaign of awareness
    - Give recommendations to save energy
    - Reward 10% of the savings
  - This could be part of Sustainability Council's charge
    - Submit to Provost, etc for their Updates
  - Could Verdis help with Energy Technology's energy-saving contest instead?
- Turn off lights in rooms
- Need to create habits. Contagious. Needs to come from Provost, President, etc. Help fund other budget needs.
- Sociology groups are looking into this.
  - Self-interest has short-term effect
  - Better results with altruistic reasoning
- Mission Statement discussion was tabled until next meeting due to discussions of Energy Technology projects and pledge.
- EARTH WEEK ACTIVITIES: Attend as many as you can!
- Brandeis will host Fresh Week from Monday, 4/20/15-Friday, 4/24/15. This event honors our sustainability efforts by purchasing fresh, local produce (via Loffredo's) and also emphasizing healthy eating.
- MONDAY April 20:
  - Demonstration Planting of the Four Sisters Crops: Outside the greenhouse @1 pm. We will plant a grouping of heirloom Indian corn, squash, sunflower, beans and tobacco. Taylor Keen will bless the sacred planting.
  - Climate Change Panel: Through the eyes of Creighton: Harper 3028 @ 7 pm Join us for an educational panel about Climate Change featuring Dr. Richard Miller, Fr. John Shea SJ, Joey Wichep, and Fr. Michael Flecky SJ
  - Dust Off Your Bike sponsored by The Bike Nest 11 am – 1 pm on the mall Bring your bike and get it ready for spring!
  - Mother Kuskokwim Mini-Documentary Screening - <https://vimeo.com/105459110> • 5pm Harper Auditorium *Honored by four film festivals so far, "Mother Kuskokwim" profiles the Yup'ik people of southwestern Alaska and the challenges they face due to poverty and climate change. This film was produced by the Backpack Journalism group headed by John O'Keefe and Carol Zuegner.*
- TUESDAY April 21:

- Electric Vehicles and the Future of Mobility in MegaCity World: Eppley 119 @ 5 pm  
Presented by Bill Moore, founder and editor-in-chief of EVWorld
- WEDNESDAY April 22:
  - Tea and Tai Chi: 1:30 pm on the mall (Earth Day WAC) There will be a Tai Chi Master from Omaha Healing Arts Center leading us in sessions of Tai Chi. Come and enjoy some herbal teas, too!
  - \*We Matter Walk 3:30 pm\* The goal of this walk is to promote climate change awareness and to show that younger generations have a voice on the issue. Students, staff, and faculty are welcome to join in the walk around campus and the nearby streets.
- THURSDAY April 23:
  - Plants for Progress: 10 am on the mall Come plant your own vegetable or flower and learn about gardening in your residence hall with the Environmental Science Club
- FRIDAY April 24
  - Arbor Day Celebration Tree Planting: Between Hitchcock and Humanities. Time TBD.
- Possibility of working with Verdis Group: behavior change in the residence halls. Work with Energy Technology students who are planning an energy challenge between the residence halls. Is this something the Council supports? Also,
  - Pledge for students/faculty/staff

#### Announcements:

- Creighton is one of the 353 most environmentally responsible colleges according to The Princeton Review. The education services company known for its test prep and tutoring services, books, and college rankings features Creighton in the 2015 edition of its free book, The Princeton Review Guide to 353 Green Colleges. The free, 218-page guide can be downloaded at [www.princetonreview.com/green-guide](http://www.princetonreview.com/green-guide). The Princeton Review chose the schools for this sixth annual edition of its "green guide" based on data from the company's 2014 survey of hundreds of four-year colleges concerning the schools' commitments to the environment and sustainability.
- Excellence in Procurement – Purchasing is one of 22 schools so honored. Earned all possible points for sustainability.
- CSA signups are going on now. Once again, Creighton will be participating in Wenninghoff's Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Jody Caudillo will be coordinating the pickups this year, and they will again be delivered to the Linn Building on 20th Street. The sign-up sheet can be found here: <http://www.wenninghoff.com/wp-content/uploads/2015-CSA-Membership-Form.pdf>. Simply put on the form that you will be picking up at Creighton.
- Over the 8-week RecycleMania2015 competition, Creighton recycled 64,773 pounds of materials, which is 6.39 pounds/person. This reduced greenhouse gases equivalent to removing 34 cars from the road for 1 year. That's 174 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, or the energy consumption of 15 households for a year.
- Purchasing recently received recognition that their efforts to use more sustainable carpet have resulted in the retirement of 29 tons of verified greenhouse gas emissions reduction credits,

which are associated with the entire life cycle (from raw material extraction through end of life) of the carpet. This is the equivalent of 4 households worth of electricity use for the year.

- Reminder about AASHE membership; email was sent out
  - Individual member accounts
  - Professional development
  - Online resources
  - Discussion forums

Administrivia:

- Do we want to keep meeting here? Yes, will try to book.

Upcoming events:

- Next meeting is May 15, 2015 in SKUTT 209.
- Earth Week: April 20-24, 2015
- Earth Day Omaha: Saturday, April 18
- St. Francis Day: October 5, 2015
  - Planning meeting April 30 at 2 pm at CCSJ

**Preamble:**

In alignment with our dedication to our Catholic, Jesuit tradition, the Creighton University Sustainability Council's mission is to support and advocate for lifestyle and institutional changes to create a more sustainable campus and community for current and future generations.

**Mission Statement:**

The Sustainability Committee advances sustainable practices on campus through education, research, activities, development, and operations, to make social, environmental and economic sustainability integral to the culture of Creighton University.

**Goal Statements:****What we do.**

Work with administrators, faculty, students, staff and alumni to implement the campus sustainability plan (Climate Action Plan) with standards for curricular, research, operation, investment, and public service endeavors

**How we do it.**

Engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about sustainability, and enhance communications across all segments of the community. Instill a culture of sustainable long-term planning and forward-thinking.

**Whom we do it for.**

Serve as a partner in sustainability with our campus neighbors, the city of Omaha, and the global community via university operations, training and education across the curriculum.

**What values we bring.**

Promote conscious stewardship of God's creation driven by our Jesuit tradition of social justice, our service to humanity, and our role as an institution of higher education.

**Accomplishments:**

The Sustainability Council has demonstrated this commitment through a variety of accomplishments since 2010, including but not limited to:

- Fr. John Schlegel, SJ signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment
- Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ continued the commitment by signing the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor
- Developed several majors, including those in Energy Technology and Sustainability
- Became the first Jesuit university to be designated a Fair Trade University
- Was recognized multiple times by The Princeton Review in their Guide to Green Colleges
- Partnered with Goodwill to divert over 60 tons of materials from the residence halls
- Established the GreenJays student sustainability group and the Creighton Center for Service and Justice's Sustainability Advocacy Group
- Incorporated sustainability as one of the five pillars of CCSJ service trips and developed a host of sustainability-themed trips
- Developed and installed more sustainable landscaping
- Active participant in Annual Climate Conference, inclusive of Provost attendance
- Since 2010, annual Recyclmania campaign has accumulated over 210 tons of recyclable materials that might otherwise have found their way into area landfills