

Sustainability Council minutes, August 16 2013

Attendance: 15

- Metro Partners. <http://ometro.com/corporate/metro-partners/>
Organizer-paid is a simple option by which the partnering business or organization provides the passes to interested participants at no cost. The employer's purchases are fully tax deductible and are not included as gross income for employees.

Employee pre-tax allows employees to use pre-tax income to purchase their individual passes, therefore reducing both taxable income and payroll taxes.

Cost-Sharing splits the cost of the passes between the partnering organization and its participants, combining the tax advantages of the first and second payment options.

This is something that Sustainability Council could partner with Staff Advisory Council (SAC) on. SAC would need us to bring a proposal and present to them what the plan is and its implications on the University and for our interest, staff.

The group liked the pre-tax option, but HR feels that it would be too expensive to administer through Payflex (approximately \$500 set-up fee, plus \$75/per person that uses the service to administer). We are wondering if there's a way to offer passes at a discount to faculty, staff and students. Mary Duda will contact Metro to see what the options are.

- CCSJ has students interns that are interested in working on sustainability. They have a list of items they want to work on this year:
 - Getting rid of disposable plastic water bottles. Need infrastructure (places to fill reusable bottles) in place first.
 - Composting
 - Reusable bags for grab-and-go
 - Double-sided printing in the library
 - Bringing back Meatless Mondays with more information/education

The group offered ideas, information and suggestions for the CCSJ students. Purchasing is exploring replacing the large (5-gallon) water bottles in offices with plumbed filtration.

Further support and help for the endeavors is appreciated.

- The sustainability badge is up and running as a pilot it and see how it goes and to give feedback before it is launched to the public. To enroll, just go to <https://blueline.instructure.com/enroll/LJLYKA> You will be prompted to log in with Creighton Credentials and then presented with the option to enroll in the course within BlueLine. The group wants to know approximately how long it takes to complete the module.

- Kat Istas is working on a brochure for the Sustainability Council, modeled after the St. Cloud State one presented by T Norton at the last meeting.
- September is our meeting to recruit new members/start affinity groups. How do we advertise? How do we set up the meeting?
 - Recycling
 - Energy Awareness
 - oneShirt
 - Freecycle
 - Earth Day
 - St. Francis Day
 - Garden/greenhouse
 - Composting
 - Alternative transportation (including biking, buses, walking, etc)
 - Biking
 - Sustainability and mission/Catholic social teaching
 - Communications/outreach
- Heartland Commuter Challenge is going well – Creighton is in the lead!
- The “Bike Nest” co-operative bike shop is still in the works and is planning a “soft opening” later in August.
- Tim Norton spoke to John Wilhelm about the possibility of installing charging stations for electric cars on the posts of the solar panels in the Burt Street lot. J.Wilhelm was open to the idea of that, as well as the possibility of free parking for those using the charging stations.
- Updates on the Energy Technology program and major.
 - The program will be working with Facilities Management to do projects on campus as a part of their year-long lab class. Those include:
 - Solar lighting for wayfinding
 - Preheating air for use in buildings
 - A cistern or pumping system for using the water pumped out of the Rigge basement
 - Charging stations for vehicles
 - The students accompanied OPPD’s inspector on the tour of the solar panels
- The IRHG mission representative suggested that the various student groups (IRHG, CSU, CCSJ, Energy Technology, GreenJays, Campus Ministry, Environmental Sciences) get together to discuss what they are working on and see how they can work together.