

Sustainability Council minutes, September 20, 2013

Attendance: 20

- The Sustainability Council brochure is now finished and looks great. THANK YOU to Kat Istas for her hard work on this.
- Heartland Commuter Challenge: Creighton won the competition! Over 30 Creighton affiliates participated, racking up almost 23,000 points (points were awarded based on the miles traveled and the sort of commuting used) and almost 8,500 miles.
- The “Bike Nest” co-operative bike shop is now open and staffed by 2 work-study students.
- The Omaha Sierra Club would like to put together a panel with representatives from Metro, Creighton, and UNO to talk about steps local campuses are taking to become more sustainable. We are looking at the date of Thurs. Oct. 24 at 7 p.m.
- 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.
- The GreenJays have been in contact with CSU and have gotten positive feedback. One suggestion was for the GreenJays to identify groups or individuals who are interested in sustainability and ask them to write a short paragraph describing what they’ve done.
- There will be a trial run of fair-trade bananas at selected Sodexo locations later this fall
- Ray Stoupa brought up the possibility of Boy or Girl Scouts doing their sustainability badges (or possibly Eagle Scout/Gold Award projects) on campus. We will explore this further.
- The group discusses what the focus of the Council should be this school year. Transportation and education/outreach were thought to be of the most importance. Discussion followed on how to use St. Francis Day festivities as a springboard. Ideas included sending emails to others to encourage them to take the pledge, inviting others to sustainability council meetings, etc. Another idea is to have thematic meetings to get small projects accomplished.
- The GreenJays will be doing a “plate-to-plate” audit of food in the dining halls – first, they will weigh wasted food without letting diners know. Then, they will post the results and let the diners know they are weighing the waste.
- The group discussed the need for the Sustainability Council to be represented in strategic planning, as that process moves forward. The plan is to wait until the objectives have been selected and see where sustainability would naturally fit and then ask to have at least one person from the Council placed on these committees.

Upcoming events:

- Climate Walk, October 25, organized by Hannah Mullally, Climate Action Plan intern. BLUJ radio will be there, food, walking to Union Pacific and back.
- Alta Gracia, fair trade clothing manufacturer based in the Dominican Republic, presentation September 28 at 8:15 am in Lower St. John’s

- St. Francis Day festivities:
 - Meeting the Future of Agriculture and Food: What Can the Faith Community Do? October 3, 2013 12:30-1:45 p.m. Hixson-Lied Auditorium, Harper Center
 - 4th Annual Religion and Environment Lecture, Thursday, October 3, 2013 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Harper Center, 3023 Dr. Lisa Sideris, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University will deliver the 4th Annual Religion and Environment Lecture. She is interested in the value and ethical significance of natural processes.
- St. Francis Day mass Noon - 12:45 pm St. John's Church, Creighton. Fr. Timothy Lannon, S.J., will be presiding and signing the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor on behalf of the university.
 - Following mass, there will be affinity group discussions and a poster session over lunch in Lower St. John's.