

Sustainability Council Meeting
Minutes

November 16, 2012

Members Present: 21

Guest Presenters: Mike Corrigan, Metropolitan Utilities District
Rick Sidel, Pepsi

Minutes from the October 19, 2012 meeting were acknowledged as accurate.

Mike Corrigan from M.U.D. spoke about the use of compressed natural gas in vehicles. His presentation included conversation about the economics of using natural gas in a compressed state as a fuel to replace gasoline and diesel fuel. Not only is it inexpensive compared to gasoline it is also very favorable to reducing the carbon footprint and enhances natural security because it is a fuel found plentifully in the United States.

Mike spoke about compressed natural gas and liquid natural gas. He mentioned that liquid natural gas filling stations are also being built.

There are two public CNG filling stations in Omaha. The stations are flowing about 30,000 gallons a week, which is making these stations cost effective.

Vehicles using compressed natural gas have about the same fuel efficiency as vehicles fueled with gasoline or diesel. There is some degradation of efficiencies in diesel fuel conversion. Conversion kits vary from vehicle to vehicle but range around \$9,000 for a typical vehicle/car/pick-up. Large trucks could be converted at a cost as much as \$50,000.

Frank Reida spoke about changes in the environmental regulations. The focus at the federal level will be on fiscal planning for the next couple of months to avoid the "financial cliff".

Frank also talked about OPPD's use of Ft. Calhoun plant to generate electricity. The regulatory agencies and change to outsourced plant management will impact the cost of electrical energy. Having the plant operating will reduce Creighton's carbon footprint.

Rick Sidel, from Pepsi, reported that the two Dream Machines for recycling plastic bottles will be installed by 2013. One station will be installed in the Skutt Student Center and one will be installed in the Harper Center. There will be about 150 stand-alone containers also delivered. Of the 150 containers, 30 to 50 will be outdoor placements.

Pete Maas talked about the recent effort with CCSJ to sort trash from the dumpster. A significant amount of the trash could have been recycled.

Mary Duda updated the group on the efforts of Jay Leighter and Richard Miller to invigorate the Green Jay program.

Mary also talked about the progress in writing the Climate Action Plan. The completion date for the plan has been delayed until May 2013. Brendle Group will stay with Creighton until the plan is finalized.

Stephanie Wernig and Mary Duda will be working on a late winter presentation to the Princeton review. The study/survey is very comprehensive. Based on the questions examined, Stephanie is not sure we'll do very well. Mary and Stephanie will be meeting to get the survey completed.

Lennis Pederson introduced the "Heartland Take Charge Challenge" being considered by numerous like-minded energy conserving business and agencies from across the city. The challenge is presented by a non-profit organization funded to enhance energy conservation. The concept is to pit Omaha in an energy conservation contest with other cities in the five state region. Omaha was considering participating but had not arrived at a decision. Lennis asked the Council if there was interest in helping Omaha be a contestant. The council was supportive of the challenge.

Lennis Pederson reported that Joe Zaborowski was willing to update the report on activity by the Sustainability Council and how sustainability has expanded at Creighton. The last update was about a year ago. Lennis asked that council members wanting to help Joe to e-mail Lennis their intention to volunteer.

Mary Duda and Lennis Pederson informed the Council that a bit more investigation was underway to establish a biodiesel production facility on campus. The facility would be a collaboration of an off-campus non-profit organization already producing biodiesel but needing space and members of the Chemistry and Physics department. More discussion will follow.

Jessica Heller gave an update on gardens on campus. The Ignatian Garden was being cleaned for winter. The planting of the Sensory Garden was completed, at least for a first phase. No updates were available about the BlueJay Garden.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

The next meeting will be December 14, 2012 at 2:00 pm in the Union Pacific Room.