

Sustainability Council minutes, November 21, 2014

Attendance: recorded at 15

- Tim Norton from Facilities Management to discuss energy savings in Facilities
 - Several different energy/sustainability initiatives
 - Increase comfort and safety while minimizing utilities spend
 - Funds saved on utilities can be reallocated to other areas
 - Study with OPPD to look at 11 buildings
 - Currently in phase one. If this is successful, will look at other buildings
 - Subcontractors currently on campus; Council members have seen contractors on campus
 - First report (Rigge) due December 5
 - Working with PR/Marketing to get information out to Creighton community
 - Replace lights: LED lights at Billy Blue's, replace metal halide lights in KFC, Heider Hall, others.
 - Bulbs last longer and minimize maintenance
 - Strategic Plan Energy Initiative Committee meets biweekly to discuss projects that have been identified. Looking at a return on Investment of 5 years or less.
 - Some projects that need to come to Sustainability Council for discussion
 - Presentation next week by a consultant from Optimized Solutions. Optimize what we already have in place.
 - Question: what all does it encompass? HVAC, scheduling of classrooms, lighting, etc. Want to maintain temp while room is used but can optimize other use (custodial, maintenance, etc). Use controls that are currently in place better. This includes training of occupants, faculty and staff.
 - Question: Will there still be maintenance requests? Even though the system says a space is optimized, sometimes the temperature is not what it says it is, especially in residence halls that use a lot of energy. Answer: Certainly Facilities will still take calls. Students may not be aware that they can call for a maintenance request
 - Maybe a resource guide for faculty, staff, students would be good. How to optimize your room/office
 - In Swanson, students are told they can't do anything about their temperature.
- A Green Event Certification is being developed by Creighton Students Union and CCSJ
 - Green event checklist
 - Information
 - Educate attendees
 - Still working on what certification would mean
 - More of an educational component

- Will be optional
 - Will have contact information for everything that needs to be done.
 - Includes things like
 - Recycle bins
 - Reusable materials
 - Electronic vs flyers
 - Agendas, etc
 - Waste, reducing trash
 - Plates -- etc
 - Catering – working with Sodexo.
 - Can't do local sustainable catering
 - Vegetarian, etc
- Looking at little-to-no cost.
- Question: How do we get faculty and staff on board
 - Request from member to see list to share with others
 - Could take to faculty council and staff advisory council
- OPPD energy savings initiative. What helps to get information out?
 - Simple stickers near switches. Works at other schools. Can be done well and still look tasteful
 - Many faculty don't think of turning off the lights when they leave a classroom. Need some sort of training or reminder.
 - Session at beginning of year to educate students doing welcome week. Show as a priority helps.
 - Little things help – turn it off. Or “little things turn it off” or “Little things mean a lot”
 - Trying to come up with some tags that would stick in people's minds
 - Need motion sensors. However, they don't meet the 5-year ROI requirement.
- Climate Action Plan update due this spring. The new rules require two interim targets; previously only one was required. Our current targets are:
 - 40% reduction in overall emissions by 2028 (Creighton's Sesquicentennial)
 - Carbon neutrality by 2050.
 - Could be net-neutral today by buying all wind energy. However we're already over budget on our utilities.
 - Having a hard time cutting back until we have meters or controls.
 - One of the strategic initiatives was to reduce travel. This is a good potential interim target. Fran Angerth can look at.
 - Why we don't do a new survey on commuting, since we lost people when Alegent split off?
 - Could piggyback a few questions on Sightlines Survey going out in February or March.
 - Shuttle services – increase service to farther downtown or Dundee or parking lots off-campus to reduce cars coming to and from campus.

- Students may be interested or willing to pay for such a service
- IRHG working on legislation for composting in residence halls. Won't be proposed until next semester. Requires a lot of background research. Main issue is no compost site on campus.
 - Questions/issues:
 - Currently no on-campus compost collection runs during the winter.
 - Need a larger space
 - Need to do a waste audit to determine size.
 - How will it be transported
 - Wanted to compost in dining halls, but can only be veggies that have not touched meat
 - Would only be on prep side
 - Ideas/support
 - Talk to Lothrop Elementary in North Omaha
 - Grounds could use compost on campus.
 - NorCalcompactors.net presented on campus
 - Start in residence halls, possibly with worm bins (vermiculture)
 - One member had composting at her high school. There was a steep learning curve at first, but it was ultimately successful.
 - What about starting in Java Jay
 - Courtyards in Opus in Davis. Good central location
- Climate Walk again this spring sponsored by advocacy groups in CCSJ. This is the students' big event for spring and will be held during Earth Week.
 - Hoping to be more successful than the first one. Hoping for support from fac/staff/students. Still working on schedule of events.
 - Want walk to call for a specific change. Need something universally agreed-upon by all groups. Could be on- or off-campus. Needs to be a positive change/message.
- Andrew Baruth in the Energy Technology program just got a \$60,000 grant from OPPD for research and sustainability outreach.

Upcoming events:

Next meeting is December 12, 2014 in Eppley 119. NOTE that this is a week earlier than typically scheduled due to break/Christmas

Spring meetings are in SKUTT 209.