

## **Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes 11/27/17**

**Attendees:** Kayla Smith for Sherwood Wilson, Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Gwyneth Manser for Frances Keene, Jeff Orzolek, Rob Lowe, Luke Juran, Ed Lener, Sean McGinnis, Alan Grant, Alexis Trent, Siddharth Bhela, Aidan Bergel, Jeremy Smith

**Guests:** Brian Squibb, Jeri Baker, Karlee Siepierski

**Approval of October minutes:** Luke Juran moved, Jeff Orzolek second

**Approval of November agenda:** Alexis Trent moved, Jeremy Smith second

**Next meeting:** Jan 22nd, 2018

### **Old Business**

Green RFP Update

- Around 40 proposals received, this is highest submission numbers seen in the program
- OS reviews feasibility of proposals in November/December
- E&S Committee appoints sub-committee to review and prioritize proposals (category 1, 2, or 3) in December/January

Given volume of proposals, would like to select sub-committee today (see related item under New Business).

STARS Update

- Points available, received, and average for each category:
  - Academics 58 available; 51.5 received; 33.81 average
  - Engagement 41 available; 35.12 received, 26.97 average
  - Operations 69 available, 30.13 received, 27.74 average
  - Planning & Admin 32 available; 19.39 received; 18.28 average
- Academics strongest category, Engagement second strongest
- Key focus areas going forward: energy and water usage (Operations)
- Projected to have 72 points, Gold rating

### **New Business**

Bike Share Program

- Jeri Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation presenting [jab518@vt.edu](mailto:jab518@vt.edu)
- Have not finalized contract yet, but have decided to join in a regional approach to bring bike share to campus, including Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Montgomery County, and VT consortium
- Successful in getting \$200,000 grant from VA Department of Rail and Public Transportation for initial capital cost of program
- Around 75 bicycles in the system will be 7 speed, and another 12-14 bicycles which are electronic assist
- 12 stations through region, 9 will be on campus (assuming majority of users will also come from campus)
- Cash match from VT dictated by how many stations are on campus
- One station at Christiansburg rec center (connect through Huckleberry), 3 - 4 stations in Town of Blacksburg, the rest of the stations on campus
- Has potential to grow by getting apartment complexes or businesses for sponsorship

- Small annual membership for users, would allow rides of first 30 minutes at no charge, then additional time somewhere in the range of \$1 per hour. Monthly or weekly memberships will also be available for guests/visitors
- Maintenance of bikes: vendor will partner with local bike shops to be the maintenance provider for bike share
- Vendor will also provide load balancing, will watch system and see trends around campus, usually done by hiring student interns
- No “hub” per se - each bike has technology built in to record real time data in trip length, distance, miles, calories burned, etc.
- Will education be rolled out with program? Try to provide as much information as possible, campus terrain can be strenuous for riders, but hoping to invest in additional infrastructure to make VT a more bike-friendly university. Education side, creating videos and educational materials to improve both vehicular and bicyclist behaviors, do not want to have to write citations
- Is this a pilot that is hoping to grow? Monetary concerns played a role, pilot program scope is affordability for a full year without having to exceed grant; potential future expansion will be based on success and demand.
- Will bikes fit on bus racks? Yes, but they are much heavier than standard road bikes, and the E-assist bikes will not
- One size fits all bike frame, easily adjustable seat height, no kids’ bikes
- Credit card compliance all through vendor, not a university program, does not cross on to university platform at all, will not be able to take Hokie passport
- Most wise time to get this started is mid-March, will announce once contract is signed

#### Green RFP Sub-Committee Selection

- Chair: Denny Cochrane
- Members: Ed Lener (faculty), Rob Lowe (staff), Jeremy Smith (undergraduate), Alexis Trent (graduate)

#### University Policy 5505

- Put together in 2010-11
- Focused on purchasing
- Need to tweak it to include computers and energy star appliances
- University does not currently have a broader sustainable procurement policy, but Mary Helmick, Director of Procurement, plans to develop one
- Can revisit in spring semester

#### Student Initiatives

- Turn Down for Watt competition wrapped up, winners are:
  - Small Halls: Hillcrest
  - Medium Halls: Barringer
  - Large Halls: Pritchard
- Looking for suggestions or alternatives to make competition better, there have been problems with meter data, AC vs. no AC in buildings, and engaging students

## Green Office Certification

- Office of Sustainability is re-launching Green Office Certification program, first training will take place on 11/30 from 12pm -2pm in Squires Brush Mountain B