

Energy and Sustainability Committee Minutes
November 17, 2008
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
210 Burruss Hall

Michael Coleman, Chair

Present: Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Scott Hurst, Denny Cochrane, Ben Myers, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Sean McGinnis, Annie Pearce, John Randolph, Tom Tucker, Mike Cutlip, Jack Davis, Brian Perkins, Sara Murrill, Angella De Soto, Kristina Hartman, Sandra Mullins (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Michael Coleman, Sherwood Wilson, Rick Johnson, Bruce Ferguson

Guests: John Beach, Richard Hirsh, Don Leo, Jackie Pontious, Lylah Shelor

1. Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Denny Cochrane chaired the meeting in Mike Coleman's absence and called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

3. Approval of the October 15, 2008 Minutes

The Committee discussed using the term "Sustainability Policy" in 6.h and determined that it should be "Sustainability Plan". With this change, the October 15, 2008 minutes were approved.

4. Old Business

- 1) Campus Energy and Water Policy 5505. It is at the Presidential staff level for approval.
- 2) Feedback on the "E-Waste" Recycling Event. Rob Lowe updated the Committee on the second electronic waste recycling event held at the old Blacksburg Middle School during the period November 6-8, 2008. The Environmental, Health, and Safety Services (EHSS) at Virginia Tech served as the host. Over four truckloads of e-waste were collected at the collection event plus two truckloads were moved from the Montgomery County School system in August for a total of 6.5 loads. The estimate weight total was over 100,000 pounds. Two full truckloads of monitors, which included about 15,000 pounds of old VT monitors, are included in those totals. The university saved about \$6,000 by participating in this event. For the past two years we were able to assist the Montgomery County School system by moving over 4 truckloads of e-waste at no cost to them.
- 3) Feedback on Sustainability Week 2008 (October 20-25). Denny Cochrane provided a brief summary of this third annual green partnership event with the university, the Town

of Blacksburg, and the local citizens group. Once again, it was very successful. Highlights of each day included:

- a) Day One – Dining Services and Local Food
- b) Day Two – Arbor Day Foundation/Toyota 2008 Campus Tree Tour Planting Event
- c) Day Three – Campus Sustainability Fair
- d) Day Four – VT Climate Action Commitment Workshops
- e) Day Five – Virginia Sustainable Building Network’s Third Annual Greening Virginia Universities and Colleges Conference
- f) Day Six – Town of Blacksburg/Sustainable Blacksburg Sustainability Fair & Tour

5. New Business

- 1) Development of the Draft Sustainability Plan and the VT Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP): President Steger has charged the Energy and Sustainability Committee to develop a draft VTCAC&SP by the end of the 2008 fall semester. The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Subcommittee is chaired by Professor John Randolph and he provided the latest status. Professor Randolph invited Committee members to attend the next Subcommittee meeting to be held on December 8, 2008. The current draft VTCAC&SP will be presented to the full Energy and Sustainability Committee on December 11, 2008 for review and comments. Once the Energy and Sustainability Committee reaches agreement, the draft VTCAC&SP will be presented to the President and to the Commission on University Support for review and comments. Once that process is completed, the Commission will prepare the draft plan in resolution format to be presented to the University Council for action during the 2009 spring semester. The Committee recommended the draft contain an Executive Summary.
- 2) Other:
 - a) Don Leo, Special Advisor to the Vice President for Research on Energy Initiatives, invited the members of the Committee to attend a lecture by Bob Metcalfe on Friday, November 21, 2008, titled “Enernet: Lessons from 62 Years of Internet History for How to Meet the World Needs for Cheap and Clean Energy.” This presentation is a part of the “Energy Ideas at Virginia Tech” program.
 - b) The local company PME in Riner, Virginia, believes they will receive a composting permit soon from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

6. Future Meetings

The next meeting for the 2008 Fall Semester will be in the Presidents Board Room, Room 210, on December 11, 2008, 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Denny Cochrane proposed, and it was agreed, that the meetings for the 2009 spring semester be held on the last Monday in every month at this location and time.

7. Adjourn

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.