

MINUTES

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee

3/31/2025

2:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85205437668>

Present – Nathan King (presiding), Julie McClafferty, Josh Clemons, Pat Donovan, Nam Nguyen, Felicity Bilow, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Carrie Cox, Irene Leech, Emily Williams, Ava Garrity, Cassidy Blackmore for Dwyn Taylor, Matt Stolte, Ian Dunbar for Kendra Paisley, Annie Lawrence, Autumn Timpano, Teresa Sweeney, Paul Ely, Sarah Bell for Andrew Dolbin MacNab

Absent with Notice: Liza Morris, Diane Bonsall, Leslie Stevens, Dean Paul Winistorfer,

Absent: Zhuo Fu, Wesley Gwaltney, Allison Tobar, Zoe Caran, Catherine Shewchuck, Sushant Dahal, Yohan Sequeira

Guests: Kristina Cook, Yugasha Bakshi, Abigail Casdin, Karen Martens, Sheree Andrews, Brenda Van Gelder, Adia Long, Charul Agrawal, Wesley Gibson, Morgan Ralph, Ann Raridon, Meghan Marsh, Steve Durfee, Nick Quint, Barbara Wise, Anthony Watson, Seyi Dasho, Ron Meyers, Olivia Solomon, Sean McGinnis

Nathan King called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of 2/24/2025

Nathan King noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Presentation

Abigail Casdin, Earth Week Coordinator, presented on the VT Earth Month Overview

Steve Durfee and Charul Agrawal, Campus Energy Manager and Energy Engineer at the Office of Energy Management, presented on ESPC efforts.

Morgan Ralph, Energy Conservation and Engagement Coordinator, presented on the Careers in Energy event summary.

4. Other Items

Ron Meyers asked what Energy Management's sense was of how the ESPC proposal will be received.

Steve Durfee responded: Right now, we believe positively. Very high level and very early on. Staying tuned for direction. Will cost money but there's an ROI and environmental and social benefits.

5. Announcements

- **Sustainability Forums - April 10, 17, and 24 from 5:00-6:00 (locations vary).** Each forum has a different guest speaker and gives students a unique opportunity to meet other people with similar interests. Details are available on our website.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Big Clean - Monday, April 14 from 4:00-6:00 across campus.** This is our annual litter clean up effort and students can register at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ACAC28A2FAC70-55410365-thebig#/> Sign up as an individual or as a group!
- **Spring Bike to Campus Day - Thursday, April 17 from 7:00-11:00 at the Transit Center, Duck Pond Gazebo, and Squires Plaza.** There's no better time to bike to campus than spring in Blacksburg! Enjoy the green leaves and the colorful flowers on your way to campus and be sure to stop by one of Sustainable Transportation's pit stops for some free swag, snacks, and for any help you may need with your bike.
- **New River Environmental Coalition (NREC) Summit - Tuesday, April 22 from 4:00-6:00 at the Blacksburg Library Community Room.** The NREC Summit is an opportunity for us to reflect on NREC's first year, celebrate our progress, and plan for the year ahead. The Summit will include an overview of our work, brief presentations from campus and community members, talks from 2-3 keynote speakers, and breakout discussions to plan for the year ahead.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: VT Bee Day Habitat Creation - April 24 from 10:30-12:30 in front of the Visitors Center.** Come help Virginia Tech maintain its Bee Campus USA certification by planting two new pollinator habitats!
- **VT Climate Action Commitment: Climate Justice Listening Session - April 29 from 5:30-6:30 in Norris 209.** The Climate Justice subcommittee wants to hear from you! The subcommittee invites feedback on its assessments and proposed recommendations for the 2025 review of the VT Climate Action Commitment. Co-hosted by the Climate Justice committee and a student project team in UH 3204: Honors Service Learning. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hGiVYK0Q-kCGPU8yweOjek-8WPaUFvNEv-3Mm0ZOqAhUMINDUzJKM0hFSk0yMDdRTkVJWUVRUkEwTy4u>

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 pm.