

MINUTES

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee

April 28, 2025

2:00 PM

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82025910363>

Present: Nathan King (presiding), Nam Nguyen, Julie McClafferty, Autumn Timpano, Teresa Sweeney, Liza Morris, Cassidy Balckmore for Dwyn Taylor, Pat Donovan, Emily Williams, Felicity Bilow, Ian Dunbar for Kendra Paisley, Joshua Clemons, Matt Stolte, Ava Garrity, Steve Durfee, Sara Bell for Andrew Dolbin-MacNab, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Paul Ely, Meghan Marsh, Nick Quint for Carrie Cox, Yohan Sequeira, Annie Lawrence, Diane Bonsall, Paul Winistorfer, Leslie Stevens

Absent with Notice: Irene Leech

Absent: Zhuo Fu, Wesley Gwaltney, Allison Tobar, Zoe Caran, Catherine Shewchuk, Sushant Dahal

Guests: Kristina Cook, Wesley Gibson, Abigail Casdin, Yugasha Bakshi, Sheree Andrews, Ben D'Elia, Morgan Ralph, Cameron Baller, Jama Coartney, Charul Agrawal, Rachael Budowle, Adia Long, Pat Hilt, Emily Vollmer, Sean McGinnis, Barbara Wise, Kiara Winans, Ann Raridon, Paul O'Keef, Ralph Hall,

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 31, 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 for Environmental Coalition, presented on Earth Month events and statistics.

Nam Nguyen, Executive Director of Energy and Utilities, presented on the updates on university sustainability efforts.

Steve Durfee, Associate Director of Energy Management, presented on updates for the Energy subcommittee as its convener

Sean McGinnis, Professor of Practice- Materials Science & Engineering and Director of VT Green Engineering, presented on updates for the GHG Inventory and Carbon Offsets subcommittee as its convener

Kristina Cook, Sustainability Program Coordinator, presented on updates for the Water subcommittee as its convener

Rachael Budowle, Collegiate Assistant Professor of Technology, Creativity, and Innovation, and Kristina Cook, Sustainability Program Coordinator, presented on updates for the Climate Action Living Laboratory (CALL) subcommittee as its co-conveners

Cameron Baller, PhD Candidate in Sociology, presented on updates for the Climate Justice subcommittee on behalf of conveners Emily Satterwhite, Shannon Bell, and Katie Smith

Teresa Sweeney, Waste and Recycling Manager, presented on updates for the Zero Waste subcommittee as its convener

Nick Quint, Sustainable Transportation Manager, presented on updates for the Carbon-Neutral Commuting and Carbon-Neutral Fleet subcommittee as its convener

Emily Vollmer, Sustainability Outreach and Reporting Coordinator, presented on VT-Blacksburg Sustainability Collaboration efforts

Yugasha Bakshi, PhD candidate in Planning Governance Global, presented on updates for the Sustainable Campus Culture, Engagement, and Sustainable Choices subcommittee as its convener

4. Other Items

- Paul Winistorfer asked about trash pickup events and commented that there is a lot of trash around the parking lot outside Engle/Cheatham Hall and wanted to know how we can address that culturally. Need a brand, a social consciousness. The parking lots look worse than commercial parking lots like Food Lion or mall.
- Nathan King: We can work on branding/pitch this summer with Teresa Sweeney and Communications and Engagement. Something similar to Game Day Green Team.

5. Announcements

- Green RFP Update
 - Budget Office Review Committee met with Nathan King to review Green RFPs. We foresee many of the projects will be funded. The official document from EVPCOO office letting the university community know which projects were accepted and funded should be available this summer.
- Y-Toss Collection
 - May 9-14, 9am-7pm
 - One of the largest sustainability events on campus
 - Over 100 tons of gently used items have been diverted from waste stream
 - Volunteers needed
- Green Graduates
 - Graduating students receive a free cord by pledging to support a sustainable future
- Freezer Challenge
 - No prior knowledge necessary
 - Labs can sign up and receive credit for their energy saving actions until July 31st

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM.