

**Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**10/22/18 2:00 - 3:00pm | Burruss Hall 130**

**Attendees:** Sarah McCoy for Sherwood Wilson, Holly Boss for M. Dwight Shelton, Jr., Mike Dunn for Liza Morris, Denny Cochrane, Anthony Purcell for Frances Keene, Jeff Orzolek, Scott Kerklo, Rob Lowe, Edward Lener, Sean McGinnis, Erin Hopkins (conference call), Alan Grant, Angie De Soto,, Caed Cunningham

**Guests:** Erica Schermerhorn, Shirley Sam, Barbara Wise, Luke Juran, and Kate Franczek

**Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**

**Meeting Agenda Approved**

**Approved Minutes from Previous Meeting on September 24, 2018**

**Old Business**

**Student Internship Program**

- Team names & projects:
  - Energy Team- (Presented by student intern Erica Schermerhorn) Electric Vehicle Charging Station Master Plan going well, they are working on their first draft which should be complete by the end of the semester
  - Water Team - Participating in EPA RainWorks Design Challenge and working closely with SID department within facilities
  - Food Team is working with Blacksburg Farmers Market on potential campus farm stand.
  - Waste Team - Styrofoam Recycling Pilot Program- The first pick up is this Thursday, 10/25. They plan to pick up monthly from Vet Med, ILSB, BI, HABB1, Fralin, Kelly, and ICTAS II.

**Green Tailgate Recycling**

- The last home game (10/6 vs. Notre Dame) we collected .66 tons (1320 lbs) of recycling.
- The last two collections will be this Thursday 10/25 vs. Georgia Tech, and on Saturday 11/3 vs. Boston College. There will not be collections at the Miami or UVA game, as these games are during Thanksgiving Break.
- Volunteers can meet Patrick (Green Tailgate Intern) at Lancaster House at 4:30 PM. Link to sign up: <https://goo.gl/forms/pPqiDtjcQRnw2sx83>

## **2018-2019 Green RFP Program**

- Many students have already submitted proposals, Erin Hopkins's class (REAL 3024) has submitted about 12 Green RFP's already.
- We expect to get a large number of proposals within the next 3 weeks.
- The deadline is 11/09, but will typically give students another week to give students up until Thanksgiving Break.
- Contact list (subject matter experts) was added this year. Feedback has been that this list is very helpful (particularly as it relates to cost to implement proposal), and those on the list are getting lots of contact from students.
- At our January meeting we will select a subcommittee to review proposals, place in priority order, and present to the full committee in February for approval.

## **New Business**

### **Princeton Review: *Guide to Green Colleges 2018 Edition***

- Actual name= Guide to 399 Green Colleges (some of these international)
- Well read and highly valued by incoming students and parents of where to attend school
- AASHE STARS data is highly weighted in this rating
- 384 schools in the US featured
- In order to be featured, the school must have at least a score of 80 (max score is 99)
- Our score is 96/99 (Similar score to UVA, UNC, and Duke)

### **2018 Sustainability Report Preview**

- Preview before VT BOV meeting this month (11/04). Will be sending out a PDF version after BOV acceptance.
- Reviewed the Table of Contents for an overview of what is included in the report.
- Five Year Energy Action Plan
  - Campus Energy Manager, Ruben Avagyan has done a lot of work to monitor and analyze energy data. He will give a presentation next month with more details.
  - Reuben identified which buildings use the most energy, and created a Five-Year Energy Action Plan in 2016 to reduce the energy. He's already achieved a \$6 million energy reduction since implementation.
  - Behavioral Energy Reduction Projects: Stickers being used to remind people to turn off lights and machines.
  - For the Calendar Year of 2017 there was a 1% reduction in CO2 emissions, but in fiscal year we saw a 9% reduction in CO2 emissions.
- Sustainable Dining
  - We composted 219 tons of food waste, and almost 6 million pounds since the program started in 2009.
  - Much of the food in the dining halls is being obtained within 250 miles from the Campus, which is especially commendable given the mountainous terrain that VT is located.

- Homefield Farm is the new name for the Kentland farm garden. Last year 37, 000 pounds of produce came from that farm. We get meat, eggs, and milk from the VT Meat Center.
- Since we introduced Reusable To-Go Containers (R2G) which came from a partnership with Green RFP, SGA, and Dining services, we have served 180, 000 R2G meals.
- 95, 960 pounds have been diverted from waste to those in need, particularly through the Campus Kitchens program that Karlee Siepierski started.
- Alternative Transportation
  - We are a bike friendly campus.
  - Allen McWhirt with ROAM Bike Share will be with us next week. He will be bringing a bike to show.
- VT has a STARS Gold rating with a score of 71.94 points.
- Recycling Rate was 39.2% for calendar year 2017.
  - Step 1: Basic recycling rate was counted, and more details can be found in subsequent pages of report.
  - Our basic recycling rate= 34.2%
  - The rate that we have kept out of the local landfill = 66.8%
  - Final Recycling Rate = 39.2%
  - Question from Angie De Soto if the recycling rate includes food waste? Yes.
- Carbon Emissions
  - We have had a linear decrease in carbon emissions since 2014. Once again, Reuben will be giving us a more detailed presentation on this next meeting.
- LEED Program
  - Projects Completed:
    - LEED Certification Achieved: 16 buildings
    - LEED Certification Pending: 2 buildings
  - Projects Under Construction: 5 LEED Registered Buildings
  - Projects under Design: 4 LEED Registered Buildings
  - Total LEED Buildings on campus = 27

#### Open Discussion

- Policy 5505
  - Policy Pyramid
  - The University is looking at all policies on hand, take policies and make them more general.
  - The details will be in standards, procedures, and guidelines which form foundation of policy pyramid, and would be things you would want to change as circumstances change
  - This structure applies to any policy on campus
- Next week: Presentation about ROAM Bike Share and Office of Energy Management

- Angie with help from Karlee Siepierski proposes to create a working group or Sub-Committee to assess our current status with Climate Action Commitment, strategies to get on track, and what steps we need to take to transition and prepare for Stage 3
  - Denny motions to have Angie take lead on -- passed.
- Caed asks if his three pieces of resolutions from SGA last year were discussed or passed on Composting, Radford Arsenal, and Mountain Valley Pipeline. Denny states Composting has been passed on to the University Composting Study Task Force, led by College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Radford Arsenal and Mountain Valley Pipeline fall out of Virginia Tech jurisdiction as they are community related. However, both of these topics were discussed at Blacksburg Sustainability Week.
- Angie asks a general question: Resolutions that are passed within GSA or SGA- how does the information get disseminated to the appropriate committee. Denny responds that those should be sent to the committee, but will also check with the Office of the Vice President for Policy & Governance.

**Next Meeting on November 12, 2018, Burruss Hall, Conference Room 130, at 2:00pm**

**Meeting Adjourned**