

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2011
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Presidents Board Room, Burruss Hall

Present: Fred Selby, Heidi McCoy (for Sherwood Wilson), Melinda West (for Dwight Shelton), Mike Coleman, John Bush (for Lynn Eichhorn), Denny Cochrane, Elena Dulys, Rob Lowe, John Randolph, Becky Saylors, Paul Winistorfer, Kapil Panchal, and Kara Dodson.

Absent: Bruce Ferguson, Madeline Schreiber, Mintai Kim, Nancy McGehee, Tom Tucker, Spencer Riddle, and Lauren Miller.

Guests: John Beach, Samantha Day, Angie De Soto, Richard Hirsh, and Rial Tombes.

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Chair Fred Selby called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

Approval of the January 31, 2011 Minutes

Draft minutes from the January 31, 2011 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee. It was noted that all previously-issued minutes this current academic year have incorrectly referenced “Academic Year 2009-2010” in the Future Meetings section; as a result, all previously-issued minutes will be corrected accordingly.

Old Business

1) Draft Revision 2 to University Policy 5505: “Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction”

Denny Cochrane announced that today, February 28, 2011, Vice President Sherwood G. Wilson approved Revision 2 to University Policy 5505: “Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction.” This revision incorporates numerous guidelines and directives contained in Governor Executive Orders issued in 2009 and 2010, it adds a comprehensive waste reduction section, and it includes many energy conservation and efficiency measures to include powering down computers when not in use. This information was very well received by the Committee members. Melinda West stressed the need to communicate the content of this revision to the university community. Denny Cochrane agreed to coordinate with University Relations personnel to prepare an announcement message for placement in various Virginia Tech electronic venues.

2) 2010-2011 Request for Proposal for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) Update

Denny Cochrane reported that earlier this month Tim Hodge (Budget Director, Office of Budget and Financial Planning) had the opportunity to present the Green RFP recommendations of the Energy and Sustainability Committee to senior university

leadership for approval and funding consideration, and informal feedback suggests all proposals were well received. Travis Hundley (Budget Coordinator, Office of Budget and Financial Planning) is preparing written documentation with the formal results of that process to be forwarded to the Committee soon. Their intent is to have funds available for use during the 2011 spring semester. This information was well received by the Committee.

3) Sustainability Student Intern Program Update

Angie De Soto briefly updated the Committee on recent progress within the Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES) Student Intern Program. She highlighted how the proposed deliverable for the Zero Waste Events team, a best practices report on game day recycling programs for the US EPA, was very well received by Ron Vance (Program Analyst, US EPA Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery) and as a result, the team had been invited to present the report in Washington to Ron Vance and colleagues during the week of April 25-29.

4) Earth Week 2011 Planning Update

Kara Dodson introduced Rial Tombes, Program Manager for Earth Week 2011. Rial presented a detailed schedule of planned activities for the April 18 through April 22 week-long event (see "E&SC 022811 Attachment 1 – Earth Week 2011.docx") and confirmed each day's specific themes as follows: Monday – "Sustainable Food"; Tuesday – "Alternative Transportation"; Wednesday – "Education/ Awareness"; Thursday – "Think Global, Act Local"; and Friday – "Earth Day." Rial also informed the Committee that on Friday, the 2011 Relay For Life of Virginia Tech will be held on the drillfield. Elena Dulys also reminded the committee of Thursday's 6:00 PM Earth Day Meal, sponsored by Dining Services and served in the D2 dining center.

Paul Winistorfer mentioned that he had recently been in contact with Ralph Byers (Virginia Tech Executive Director of Government Relations) and that Ralph had been asked by Doug Domenech (Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources) what Virginia Tech's involvement would be with Earth Week 2011. Paul suggested that Kara Dodson and Rial Tombes contact Ralph Byers directly and share their Earth Week plans and schedules with him.

5) Office of Energy & Sustainability Scorecard Update

Fred Selby presented the second quarterly update for the OES Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP) implementation scorecard (see "E&SC 022811 Attachment 2 – OES Scorecard.pptx"). Mid-year results for the majority of metrics continue to be on-track for full-year meeting of or favorability to targets. Angie De Soto and John Randolph are working together to quantify the four Academic Programs metrics. The following additional discussion points were raised:

- Recycling Rate – The mid-year result for Overall Recycle Rate was shown as only 29.9%; however that number conservatively did not reflect yet-to-be-determined calendar year-end credits (up to an additional 5%) for solid waste reused (e.g., construction and major renovation projects) and non-municipal solid waste recycled (e.g., asphalt, roofing materials, etc.) that are added per VA DEQ

calculation methodology. Virginia Tech did receive the full 5% credit in calendar year 2010 and fully anticipates receiving the credit for calendar year 2011 as well when the full Commonwealth of Virginia Locality Recycling Rate Report is completed later in the quarter.

- Total Alternative Sustainability \$ Identified (Annualized) – Mike Coleman raised the question as to what this metric entailed; he stated that the University had indeed invested a significant amount of resources to the area of sustainability, to which all agreed. In response, Fred Selby stated that this metric reflected an attempt to in part quantify and measure VTCAC&SP item 14, “Virginia Tech will provide funding to support sustainability programs through a variety of sources...” but that a more comprehensive metric could be defined to better reflect overall University financial commitment to sustainability. A future activity of the Committee may be to further/better define this important metric.
- Campus Sustainability Metrics – Paul Winistorfer raised the need for a smaller (three or four) set of simplified metrics that would easily define Virginia Tech’s commitment to sustainability in a way that would resonate with the “average person on the street.” In response, Fred Selby stated that while the OES scorecard was more of an internal document to drive VTCAC&SP implementation, this would be a worthwhile future activity for this Committee to undertake.

New Business

1) FY 2010, FY 2011 (YTD) GHG Inventory Analyses

Fred Selby presented an update on Virginia Tech’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory status and short-term plans to address (see “E&SC 022811 Attachment 3 – GHG Inventory Status.pptx”). Key points emphasized were:

- Results from both FY 2010 and FY 2011 to-date have been updated using improved calculation methodologies and will be reported on a fiscal-year basis; while somewhat higher than calendar year-based numbers presented earlier during the November E&SC meeting OES Scorecard update, these are more accurate.
- Even though absolute annual emissions numbers have increased since the 2006 baseline of 316,000 tons, campus physical footprint has also increased by 899,919 GSF, or 11.9%; as a result, normalized emissions (tons CO_{2-e} / GSF) are projected to be reduced from 41.31 in 2006 to 37.23 in 2011 (a 9.9% reduction).
- At mid-year, the university is on pace to reduce FY 2010’s 327,352 tons CO_{2-e} to 317,958 tons CO_{2-e}.

2) Open Discussion

RecycleMania 2011 Update - Denny Cochrane reminded the Committee members that Virginia Tech is now in the scoring phase of RecycleMania 2011. Preliminary results indicate Virginia Tech is doing well amongst colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in the middle of the pack amongst Atlantic Coast Conference counterparts. Results from food service organic waste recycling have been a real strength this year followed by mixed paper and cardboard.

Waste Oil Recycling – Elena Dulys mentioned that Virginia Tech Dining Services returns a significant amount of waste cooking oil for recycling and wondered if somehow that oil could be feasibly converted on campus or locally into biodiesel fuel for campus vehicles. Fred Selby agreed to have the OES investigate further.

Future Meetings

Dates: The remaining scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2010-2011 are as follows:

- March 21, 2011
- April 25, 2011

Times and Location: All meetings will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall unless noted above.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.