

**Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 19, 2012**  
**2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Presidents Board Room, Burruss Hall**

**Present:** Kayla Smith (for Sherwood Wilson), Savita Sharma (for Dwight Shelton), Mike Coleman, Leigh LaClair, John Bush (for AVP - University Planning), Denny Cochrane, Jean Smoot (for Donna Ratcliffe), Bruce Ferguson, Mintai Kim, Nancy McGhee, John Randolph, Paul Winistorfer, Becky Saylor, Michael Painter, James Dale, Kyle Gardiner and Alex Kosnett.

**Absent:** Fred Selby, Rob Lowe, Georg Reichard, and Tom Tucker.

**Guests:** Alyssa Halle, Abby Hays

**Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests**

Acting Chair Denny Cochrane called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed.

**Approval of the February 27, 2012 Minutes**

Draft minutes from the February 27, 2012 meeting were presented to and approved by the Committee.

**Old Business**

**1) 2011-2012 Request for Proposal for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) Update**

Denny Cochrane presented the members with the Memorandum from Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Finance Officer, subject “Proposals for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP),” dated January 20, 2012 (see “E&SC 031912 Attachment 1 – Green RFP Funds Approval Memo.pdf”). In review, seven proposals were approved totaling \$37,070. Funds were released two months earlier than last year and have resulted in accelerated implementation. Two proposals are completed (5 Outdoor Mixed Paper Recycling Containers and 350 Indoor Individual Hand Held containers for 2 Residence Halls). The remaining five proposals are underway (4 Waste Station for Dining Facilities, Additions to the Sustainable Farm, 10 Bike Racks, 4 Water Bottle Refilling Stations, and Ytoss Signage). Our goal is to have as many approved proposals as possible completed by the end of the 2012 spring semester.

**2) Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment and Sustainability Plan (VTCAC&SP) Subcommittee Update**

Subcommittee Chair Leigh LaClair reported the subcommittee is now fully engaged holding bi-weekly meetings on Mondays at the Sterrett Facilities Complex. Membership includes representation from the E&S Committee with augmentation from other key departments. Actions underway include reviewing the language of the 14 points in the

Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment to determine if changes are appropriate. The subcommittee is reviewing the status of 80 actions and measures in VTCAC&SP Immediate Phase (2009-2012). The vast majority are either completed or ongoing requiring periodic updates. The Subcommittee will soon begin the review of actions and measures listed for the Mid-Term Phase (2012-2025) identifying any necessary modifications. Particular attention will be made to identify actions and measures for implementation for the initial three year period 2012-2015.

**3) Stadium Woods Committee Update**

Professor John Randolph is the Chair of the Athletic Practice Facility Site Evaluation Committee. He reported the committee continues to be in a fact-finding and data collection mode and has prepared and launched a series of surveys and emails seeking input from all interested parties. The deadline for completing and presenting this information to Dr. Steger is June 1. The committee's goal is to present their findings and recommendations prior to the end of the 2012 spring semester.

**4) RecycleMania 2012 Update**

For the seventh consecutive year Virginia Tech is participating in RecycleMania 2012. This national level friendly competition is taking place from February 5 through March 31, with 548 schools participating. Recycling materials measured include paper, cardboard, bottles & cans, and composted food waste. Our goal this year is to increase our recycling rate by 10% from last year and we are well on track to achieve that. Paper recycling and composted food waste are our strengths. Weekly results are posted on the OES website and final results should be available on April 13, 2012.

**New Business**

**5) Earth Week 2012**

Historically the student group Environmental Coalition (EC) has the primary lead for developing, promoting and implementing our Earth Week Program. EC President Alex Kosnett and EC Earth Week 2012 Coordinator Abby Hays gave a presentation of our program which will take place during the period April 17-22. The Earth Week 2012 Program is available on website <http://vtearthweek.com/>. A specific theme has been given for each day. The EC is to be commended for once again developing a first class and very comprehensive program that includes events on and off campus. Denny Cochrane encourage members to attend events especially the Earth Week 2012 Celebration Ceremony on Thursday, April 19 beginning at 11:00am outside the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science new research building ICTAS-II. President Steger will provide remarks marking the third anniversary of approval of "The Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment" by our Board of Visitors, and together with ICTAS Director Roop Mahajan will unveil the US Green Building Council's LEED Gold Plaque.

**6) Eco-Olympics 2012**

SGA Director of Sustainability Kyle Gardner and Office of Energy and Sustainability Graduate Assistant Alyssa Halle have planned and coordinated Eco-Olympics 2012. This friendly competition is being held during the period March 12 through April 13. Kyle Gardiner has

coordinated activities and events throughout the competition which may be viewed on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EcoOlympics>.

The intent of the competition is to reduce electricity and water consumption for the on campus residence halls and special purpose housing, in addition to encouraging students to attend sustainability-related events. Alyssa reported they have established five peer group categories of similar size and function to provide a level playing field for all residence halls to compete (Air-Conditioned Residence Halls, Large Residence Halls, Medium Residence Halls, Small Residence Halls, and the Oak Lane Community). Each Wednesday, Virginia Tech Electric Services will be gathering weekly consumption data. At the conclusion of the competition eight awards will be presented. The five peer group winners will each receive a banner. The residence hall with the greatest reduction in electricity will receive a banner. Likewise, the residence hall with the greatest reduction in water consumption will receive a banner. Finally, the residence hall with the greatest number of total points earned throughout the competition will be declared the Grand Champion and will receive the famous "Recycle Man" Trophy to be placed inside that residence hall until next year's competition.

#### **7) Open Discussion**

Ytoss 2012 will be held during the period May 4-11. The YMCA at Virginia Tech, Virginia Tech Recycling, and other sponsors will be working together to develop, promote and implement this Reuse Program. Denny Cochrane reported we will receive a presentation at our next meeting.

Denny Cochrane announced the Solar Photovoltaic Parking Garage Project presentation originally scheduled for this meeting will instead be given at our next meeting. Bruce Ferguson expressed interest in having a tour of the project site in the future.

Kyle Gardiner announced the creation of an SGA Resolution in support of leaving the Stadium Woods as is. He reported the resolution passed with overwhelming support in the House, however, for whatever reason it was not passed in the Senate. Kyle said there will be a revote in the Senate tonight.

#### **Future Meetings**

The final meeting of the Energy and Sustainability Committee for Academic Year 2011-2012 will be held on April 30, 2012, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned.



Office of the Vice President for Finance and  
Chief Financial Officer  
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540/231-8775 Fax: 540/231-4265

January 20, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Energy and Sustainability Committee  
Denny Cochran, Sustainability Program Manager, Office of Sustainability

**FROM:** M. Dwight Shelton, Jr. 

**SUBJECT:** Proposals for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP)

I am pleased to learn that progress is being made in advancing the Campus Sustainability Plan via the Green RFP program to solicit and respond to proposals from recognized student organizations. Student engagement is an important factor in achieving goals in the sustainability plan, and will continue to be crucial as the University implements specific actions in the plan.

The university has reviewed the funding request from the Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) and approves the seven proposals recommended by the Energy and Sustainability Committee as illustrated below.

Description	Organization	Funding Source	Aux Funding	E&G Funding	Total Funding
5 Outdoor Mixed Paper Recycling	SGA Dir of Sustainability	Residential	\$3,670	\$0	\$3,670
350 Indoor Mixed Paper Recycling Bins	Res Committee on Sustainability	Residential	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
4 Waste Stations	Environmental Coalition	Dining	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
Additions to Sustainable Farm	Sustainable Food Corps	E&G	\$0	\$4,600	\$4,600
10 Bike Racks	SGA, Dir of Transportation	Residential, E&G	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
4 Water Bottle Refill Stations	Environmental Coalition	UUSA, E&G	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
Ytoss Program Signage Support	YMCA at Virginia Tech	Residential, E&G	\$650	\$650	\$1,300
		Total	\$22,820	\$14,250	\$37,070

The Office of Sustainability will serve as the liaison between student organizations and the University. With this in mind, the Office of Budget and Financial Planning will establish four funds to underwrite these projects. Some initiatives were funded by Auxiliaries, others received support from E&G funds, and the cost of a few initiatives were shared between E&G funds and Auxiliaries as noted above.

*Invent the Future*

I want to thank you, the Office of Sustainability, Energy and Sustainability Committee, and the student organizations for their leadership and support of this pilot program.

If assistance in the funding process is needed please contact Travis Hundley ([thundley@vt.edu](mailto:thundley@vt.edu) or 231-4475).

cc: Kate Barbour  
Mike Coleman  
Jeff Earley  
Tim Hodge  
Travis Hundley  
Fred Selby  
Ken Smith  
Ed Spencer  
Sherwood Wilson  
Wendell Vest