

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27th, 2023
2:00pm

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83748591191?from=addon>

Present: Nathan King for Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Nick Quint, Rachel Maizel, Dean Paul Winistorfer, Pat Donovan, Nathaniel Humphreys, Zhuo Fu, Rob Lowe, Madison Betts, Claudia Budzyn, Matt Stolte, Caroline Lohr for Princess Merritt, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Annie Hassall Lawrence, Nam Nguyen, Teresa Sweeney, Gia Ha, Todd Schenk, Izzy Largen, Scott Nachlis, Paul Ely, Amy Hogan, Nick Woods for Ken Miller, Gwyneth Martin, Brandon Hendricks, Rosalba Ledezma for Liza Morris, Mae Hey, Wesley Gwaltney

Absent: Katie Smith, Lilian Prins, Dana Hawley

Guests: Kristina Cook, S.B. Chandler, Jack Leff, Emily Vollmer, Wendy Halsey, Rosie Cicmanec, Meghan Marsh, Larissa Gimmy, Lizeth Jaramillo, Sean McGinnis, Yugasha Bakshi, Eli Meyer

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. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of November 28, 2022 and Membership Updates

Nathan noted that the January minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<https://governance.vt.edu>).

He also shared the following membership updates:

Welcome to new members: Izzy Largen (Assistant Director for Food Access Initiatives). Izzy is filling the role of our Student Affairs representative. Nick Quint (Transportation Network Manager). Nick is serving as the Interim Transportation Services representative.

3. Presentation

Nathan King (Campus Sustainability Manager) and Jack Leff (Climate Fellow) gave presentations that covered all agenda items for the committee meeting (attached).

4. Open Discussion

Presentation of the 2022-2023 Green RFPs and vote (Nathan King)

- Sean McGinnis asked why cost is so high for the EV charging stations.
 - Nathan worked closely with David Morris from VTES who provided the quote. Bulk of cost is due to need for electrical infrastructure upgrades and there will also be some tree work necessary.
- Rosalba Ledezma asked if there was a specific area in mind for the Stroubles Creek restoration project.
 - Nathan will send Rosalba the proposal to show current planting plans along with past plantings.
- Caroline Lohr asked if we could ask SCHEV for money to fund the lighting upgrades at New Resident Hall East and Peddrew-Yates.
 - Nathan explained there are many avenues to fund projects like this. Green RFP is one successful program to fund and all options are being explored as lighting renovations and upgrades are planned around campus.
- Brandon Hendricks expressed concerns over the cost for the EV charging station project and asked if we have a broken-down quote for it that lays out everything.
 - Nathan let him know that we do have a solid quote from David Morris at VTES. David went out to the Inn to look at all the current infrastructure. He can send that to Brandon.

- Brandon asked who is paying for the electricity to charge vehicles once chargers are operational.
 - Nick Quint explained that the stations are set up so that the users pay the fees. Also, guests of the Inn will receive a code to use and the Inn will pay for whatever their usage is. Monies received cover electricity, network plan, annual plan, and warranty plan. We are not able to recuperate enough costs from charger usage to cover installation.
- Nam Nguyen: We (VTES) tried to see if there was a way for us to come out of the existing service at the Inn, but the way that the electrical room is configured- it would be very expensive to even try to exit the building. So, we have to set up a new transformer, new service that would require trenching and undergrounding around sensitive trees and under sidewalks and make restorations. So, unfortunately, that adds a lot to the cost.
- Todd Schenk thanked Nam for clearing that up since he too was noticing cost much higher than installing in a shopping plaza. He wondered if another location could be explored- the other side of the Inn or something. High cost could set the stage for opposition to more stations in the future since they would look at this as an example of what it costs to put EV chargers in.
- Nam: We can entertain other locations. I assume you mean still in that parking lot. But, the way that the parking is laid out at the Inn is that the parking is a distance from the building itself. And, I think they want it to be kind of high profile- front and center, next to the existing chargers- easy access. But, we can go back and take a look and see if there is a way to make it more cost-effective by looking at other parking locations. Our task was to have the service delivered to the front parking spots next to the handicapped spots.
- Nathan: And, it's 12 spots right there perfectly in a row. We can take a look at some other areas as well.
- Nam Nguyen let Nathan know that Steve Durfee and he are planning to go out with an RFP for a performance contracting project that looks at energy efficiency and energy conservation campus-wide. If they discover that the lighting upgrades to New Resident Hall East and Peddrew-Yates and the automatic faucets upgrade in McBryde could be done more cost-effectively, would there be time to pull back on those going through the Green RFP program?
 - Nathan asked what rough timeline would be for the performance contracting project because we usually get funding through the Budget Office in June or July.
 - Nam: First set of estimates likely not back until late summer.
 - Nathan: Sounds close. We can coordinate
 - Nam: Yes, let's coordinate.
- Brandon Hendricks: We talked about the bike share program. Are there specifics on what the students would pay by semester or by year for that type of service?
 - Nick Quint: We haven't finalized anything but we're thinking something like \$50 a year or \$25-\$30 per semester.
 - Scott Nachlis: For the Bike Share program- is there an all-inclusive component or pay-as-you-go based on individual interests?
 - Nick: There would be no fee required of every student. It would be opt-in only.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the shortlist of select category 1 proposals as recommended by the subcommittee with the caveat of looking into other pricing options for the EV charging stations based on other locations within the Inn parking lot. The motion carried. The proposals will be forwarded up to the Budget Office.
 - Brandon Hendricks expressed concern still about the cost of the EV Chargers.
 - Jack Leff let the group know he wanted to clarify that this vote doesn't allocate resources or anything. It pushes it up to the Budget Office for their approval. What usually happens is a negotiation process between them and Nathan mostly. That will be another opportunity to keep costs down and he's sure they will raise the exact same questions.
 - Nathan confirmed that the Budget Office will want to see the quotes and look into that a little deeper as well.

University Mission Initiative (UMI) (Jack Leff)

- Jack: We had been discussing as a committee submitting a report to the University Council Cabinet since they no longer take presentations concerning the work that we've been doing across the eight subcommittees

and the general body of this committee since we're pretty big- I think may be the largest committee in governance. After a back-and-forth with different members of the University Council cabinet, with April Meyers, and with many of the CASE team, we decided to float the idea of becoming a university mission initiative. And so let me back up and talk about that because it's sort of unclear about what that means. Last year, we saw the culmination of about two to three years of work on shared governance, rewriting the constitution and bylaws for the University Council, which then trickles down to all the different committees, commissions, and senates. As part of the shift, they were thinking about how to restructure shared governance in general. To try to make additions to enable more interdisciplinary and cross-cutting measures across the university. And one of the ways they tried to do that was by developing a program called university mission initiatives. And what university mission initiatives are is just that- trying to identify projects that cut across pretty much all areas of the university and that need a university-wide approach to implement. There were two examples. I happen to be in a lot of those meetings last year. And so I can speak to some of the examples that were discussed. There were two examples of what a first university mission initiative might look like. One was experiential learning, since that ties together so many different elements of our university, it's fundamentally interdisciplinary. It will probably require the facilities and operations sides to chip in. Then the other major example was Climate Action Commitment implementation, because all departments are going to need to help us get to carbon-neutral by 2030, 100% renewable energy by 2030, as well as our 13 other goals. There has yet to be a single university mission initiative. Right now it's just a framework within the university council constitution and bylaws. So it's unclear what comes along with being a UMI. To become a UMI, the pathway is actually pretty straightforward. We as a committee, would draft a resolution and by that, I mean, I'd probably draft the resolution for your consideration. We'd review it and we'd send that up to the University Council Cabinet who ultimately decides whether or not we fit the criteria of a UMI or not. Typically, what would then happen is that this UMI would form its own committee. Basically just adding another element to the shared governance structure with the idea that all constituents would get input on it. But because we already have a robust committee that cuts across all the different areas, we would probably just elevate this committee to the status of UMI. Again, what benefits that actually entails is unclear because we would be the first one. But this is something that we've been considering just to elevate the profile of the Climate Action Commitment, and to get a little bit more buy-in from the university-wide community. In terms of the work that this committee would be required to do, it would just be reviewing the UMI resolution. I'm happy to take a lead on drafting it. It should be a pretty straightforward thing. And then we can discuss then whether or not it's something we ultimately want to pursue. What this discussion is for is just to update you all. And this is something that we're considering doing. Mary-Ann has a memo out to the University Council Cabinet- who are meeting in about 40 min from now- to just discuss if they're even interested in this as a proposal. And so I'll have more information for you at the next meeting. Because ultimately it's up to their purview. But really, what I was trying to do here is just introduce this idea, let everybody know about it and answer any questions folks might have before we even begin step one of writing a resolution to move this up the chain. Does anyone have any questions? Hearing none, feel free to send me an email. I'll put my e-mail in the chat. If you do have any questions, comments, or concerns, I'm happy to share the specific sections of the University Council constitution and bylaws with you where UMIs are discussed. But as I said, there's a lot of ambiguity because we would ideally be the first one. We do have a good question. So to your point, Rachel, it's unclear whether we'd have more sway in University Council. We wouldn't have more representation per se. We already report directly to University Council Cabinet, so that's about as much representation we can get. And I believe we have members who report from our committee on University Council. But in terms of sway by being elevated to a university mission initiative and especially being the first one. The idea is hopefully we can capitalize on this new project to get a little bit more university collaboration around the Climate Action Commitment and a little bit more buy in from a higher level. It most likely be sort of political buy-in rather than structural buy-in. So like not more members on University Council. They in fact cut University Council in about half last year as part of the shared governance changes. So I think they'd resist adding some people to it. But hopefully more political sway. I'll put my e-mail in the chat if folks have questions,

5. Announcements

- Nick Quint: 2023 Parking Survey
 - There are a couple of items related to sustainability in the survey. One is, we've added several questions to help improve the accuracy of greenhouse gas inventory data related to commuting to

and from campus. And then the second is, there are several questions that help us assess electric vehicle adoption on campus and the need for infrastructure to help support that. The survey takes less than 10 min to complete and of course all responses are anonymous. I will share a link to the survey in the chat. If you could please take it and share with your networks, that would be super helpful.

- Teresa Sweeney: Campus Race to Zero Waste (more detail on presentation slide)
 - Numbers are reported weekly
 - If you have questions, reach out to her or Emily Vollmer
 - Information gathered will be useful to our zero waste consultants that we are currently working with
- Emily Vollmer: Office of Sustainability Intern Hiring
 - We hire about 20 undergraduate student interns who work on projects throughout the academic year that support the CAC
 - Program is open to students of all majors and all years
 - Applications close March 15th
 - If you know students who are interested, send them to our website. Link is in the chat. But you can also get there by searching Virginia Tech sustainability internship. The site has a lot more basic information about the program, what students can expect, the level of commitment, etc. [And it also has the link to the actual application form on there.](#)

6. Adjournment

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



Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee

February 27th, 2023 – 2:00 PM



Agenda



- Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Membership Updates
- Approval of Proposed Agenda (if a quorum is present)
- Meeting Minutes: Electronic Vote Results
- Old Business
 - Presentation of the 2022-23 Green RFPs and Vote
- New Business
 - University Mission Initiative Discussion
- Announcements and Open Discussion

2022-2023 Green RFPs Presentation and Vote



2022-2023 Green RFP Process and Timeline

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Sep 11	Green RFP 2022-23 announcement
Nov 11	Proposal deadline to CASE office
Dec 1	CASE office coordinates review with subject matter experts
Jan 23	CASEC Subcommittee to begin review & prioritize proposals
Feb 27	Subcommittee presents recommendations to <u>CASEC for approval</u>
March	CASEC presents proposals to the Office of Budget & Financial Planning
Mar/Apr	OBFP convenes Budget Review Committee- identifies funding sources
May/June	Select proposals approved - implementation initiated in summer

Green RFP Subcommittee

- **Evaluation:**

The subcommittee met twice over the past month to evaluate and create a short list of category 1 proposals that best meet the Green RFP criteria.

Members:

- Kristina Cook
- Nathaniel Humphries
- Yugasha Bakshi
- Teresa Sweeney
- Nathan King

Thank you subcommittee members!!!

It is the subcommittee's recommendation to the CASE Committee that the following list of projects be considered for approval:

Final list of proposals = 13 proposals; Total cost = \$628,000

Number	Title & Description	Student Organization	One-Time Cost	VTCAC Points
1	<p>Sustainable Autoclave - Engel Hall: This proposal seeks to replace the second autoclave in Engel Hall with a more energy and water efficient model, similar to the one purchased last year through the Green RFP.</p>	<p>Biochemistry Club and BcGSA</p>	<p>\$ 39,900.00</p>	<p>1, 4, 7, 10, 12</p>
2	<p>Stroubles Creek Restoration (Phase 6): This proposal would support the next phase of the Stroubles Creek riparian restoration project. This would include large-scale seedling plantings, education, outreach, and monitoring. The funding would be used to apply for a matching grant to plant approximately 1,900 seedlings.</p>	<p>Stroubles Creek Coalition, VT StREAM Lab</p>	<p>\$ 25,000.00</p>	<p>1, 6, 10, 12</p>
3	<p>100 Trees for SCC Riparian Restoration: This proposal would support the ongoing restoration efforts along Stroubles Creek with additional tree plantings.</p>	<p>Environmental Student Organization</p>	<p>\$ 1,300.00</p>	<p>1, 6, 10, 12</p>

4	<p>Occupancy Sensors and LEDs - New Res Hall East and Peddrew-Yates: This proposal would fund the installation of occupancy sensors and LED lights in stairwells, hallways, rooms, and bathrooms to reduce energy usage and light pollution.</p>	UAP 3354 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning (Urban Affairs and Planning Course)	\$ 182,600.00	1, 4, 12, 13
5	<p>Hydroponics Extension Sytem - The Market: This proposal seeks to add a 12 bay extension to the current hydroponics system in The Market to facilitate the growth of herbs and plants that are expensive to purchase otherwise.</p>	Office of Sustainability - Food Interns	\$ 1,500.00	1, 8, 10, 14
6	<p>Longterm Bike Rental Program: This proposal seeks to fill the alternative transportation hole left by the departure of "Roam" bike share program and Zip car by creating VT's own bike share rental program.</p>	Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association (GUAPA)	\$ 21,300.00	1, 9, 12
7	<p>Battery Recycling Program - DSA: This proposal seeks to expand the successful battery collection program that ESO currently oversees in 6 buildings. The expansion would include adding a bin/signage to all residence halls and most dining halls. ESO would oversee collections as normal.</p>	Environmental Student Organization	\$ 500.00	1, 7, 10, 12

8	<p>SW Chiller Plant Green Wall Improvements: This proposal seeks to improve the failing green wall on the chiller plant through providing irrigation, amended soils, and additional climbing plant species.</p>	GUAPA	\$ 6,600.00	1, 4, 6, 10
9	<p>Motion Sensor Faucets - McBryde Hall: This proposal would replace existing manual faucets (~63) with motion sensor faucets in order to reduce water waste and improve maintenance.</p>	UAP 3354 - Introduction to Environmental Policy and Planning (Urban Affairs and Planning Course)	\$ 48,000.00	1, 12
10	<p>Tree Planting - Owens, Dietrick, and Payne Halls: This proposal would add a total of 500 trees between the 3 sites identified that would increase campus carbon sequestration and canopy cover. It will also mitigate erosion on these steeper slopes.</p>	Interfaces of Global Change IGEP	\$ 8,000.00	1, 6, 10
11	<p>Covered Bike Racks - Hoge and Newman Hall: This proposal would add a covered bike rack near each hall to incentivize bike usage.</p>	Alternative Transportation Office Intern	\$ 36,000.00	1, 9, 12

12	Bike Racks - 5 Buildings: This proposal would add 8-loop bike racks at high utilization areas around West Ambler Johnston, Cochrane, NCB, Campbell, and Jamerson.	GUAPA	\$ 31,500.00	1, 9, 12
13	EV Charging Stations - The Inn at VT: This proposal would fund the purchasing and installation of 6 level 2 charging stations to replace the 2 old charging stations in the main parking lot at the Inn.	Office of Sustainability GA	\$ 225,800.00	1, 9, 12
			Total Cost = \$628,000	

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University Mission Initiative Discussion

A scenic view of a lake surrounded by lush green trees. The foreground is filled with large, vibrant green leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred. In the background, a calm lake reflects the sky, with more trees lining the far shore. A white rectangular box is centered in the image, containing the word "Announcements" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Announcements

2023 Parking Survey

- **Currently Live!**

Help Virginia Tech compete in the Race To Zero Waste

- **What is it?**
A national waste diversion competition between colleges and universities!
- Currently [ranked 56 in the Per Capita Classic](#)
- Send the Office of Sustainability (sustainability@vt.edu) pictures of you and your team properly disposing of your recycling to be featured on our Instagram (vtsustainable)
- 4 weeks of competition are left!!! Go Hokies!



Office of Sustainability Intern Hiring

- **Portal opened on Friday!**
- **Link is in the chat**
- **Applications close March 15th**



Open Discussion

Next Meeting: **March 27, 2023**
2:00 p.m. via Zoom

