

## **MINUTES**

### **Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee**

**September 22, 2025**

**2:00 PM**

**Newman Library, Room 101S**

**Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/81684117092>**

#### **Present:**

In Person: Nathan King (presiding), Nam Nguyen, Matt Stolte, Cassidy Blackmore for Dwyn Taylor, Meghan Marsh, Emily Williams, Nick Quint for Carrie Cox, Sheree Andrews, Carmen Atkins, Grey Kieffer, Catherine Shewchuck for Sean Kenny,

Zoom: Mehmedalp Tural, Julie McClafferty, Teresa Sweeney, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Yohan Sequeira, Susan Gill, Ken Belcher

**Absent with Notice:** Liza Morris, Irene Leech, Kendra Paisley

**Absent:** Joshua Clemons, Kirsten Dean, Jennifer Walters, Saskia van de Gevel, Nicci Ratcliff, Ella Jackson

#### **Guests:**

In Person: Kristina Cook, Yugasha Bakshi, Rachael Budowle, Isabella Nijkamp, Isabella Gerena, Sean McGinnis, Eric Tatum, Steve Durfee, Ron Meyers, Todd Schenk, Morgan Ralph, Charul Agrawal, Mark Witt, Scott Kerklo, Jordyn Lewis, Emily Vollmer, Shayan Choudry, Maddy Glanz

Zoom: Karen Martens, Leslie Stevens, Wesley Gibson, Lizeth Jaramillo Taborda, Paige Kunkle, Diane Bonsall, Bijou Bachelor, Adia Long, Kiara Winans, Pat Hilt, Scott Kerklo, Barbara Wise, Anthony Watson

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 April 28, 2025**

Nathan King noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: [governance.vt.edu](https://governance.vt.edu)

#### **3. Presentation**

Sean McGinnis, Professor of Practice- Materials Science & Engineering and Director of VT Green Engineering, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 1 – Carbon Neutral VT Campus by 2030.

Rachael Budowle, Collegiate Assistant Professor of Technology, Creativity, and Innovation, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 10 – Integrate the Climate Action

Commitment into VT's educational mission through the Climate Action Living Laboratory.

Steve Durfee, Associate Director of Energy Management, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 2 – 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

#### **4. Other Items**

- Ron Myers to Sean McGinnis – Are students being paid to do the analysis? Do you have any ideas on how we can include the ARECs that know the VT campuses?
- Question on Zoom to Sean McGinnis – With the increase of energy and water consumption projected with AI, are we able to source four times our current use from clean sources?
- Ron Myers To Steve Durfee – This is such a big new thing to do, and we will need a whole working group to sort it out. What level of risk is the university okay with? How would financing that work out? What kind of a group needs to be put together to sort out the issues?
- Todd Schenk to Steve Durfee – A lot of the work being done by the assessment group to go to the next level has to draw on the academic side. Facilities have shown a willingness to be good partners on a lot of that, but it has to come from academic leadership for it to be integrated at a deeper, systemic and longer term. Are you hearing much about a willingness to think about these things, including pointing out money and other resources?
- To Steve Durfee – How often is the contract renewed?
- Question on Zoom to Sean McGinnis - In calculating carbon emissions for goal one, are emissions due to production of technology such as solar panels, including their transportation included, or are these omitted when calculating campus carbon emissions?
- Rachel Budowle to Steve Durfee – What would be the single biggest thing that would make getting to 100% renewable energy easier?
- Student to Steve Durfee - If I have more questions about the challenges towards the installation of renewable energy like solar panels on campus who could I talk to about those challenges to learn more about them?

#### **5. Announcements**

- Announcements were sent out by email to the committee as pre-meeting read ahead material

#### **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:18 PM.