

MINUTES

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
February 2nd, 2026
2:00 PM
Newman Library, Room 101S
Zoom Option: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/86008598317>

Present – Nathan King (presiding), Mehmedalp Tural, Liza Morris, Sheree Andrews, Matt Stolte, Nicci Ratcliff, Sweta Baniya, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Susan Gill, Meghan Marsh, Kirsten Dean, Ken Belcher, Yohan Sequiera, Arturo Soriano, Nam Nguyen, Kyle White, Irene Leech, Teresa Sweeney, Emily Williams, Nick Quint for Carrie Cox, Ryan Zekra

Absent with Notice: Dwyn Taylor, Grey Kieffer, Sean Kenny, Saskia van de Gevel

Absent: Joshua Clemons, Juli McClafferty, Jennifer Walters, Rumana Rani, Saswat Gautam, Kendra Paisley, Ella Jackson, Yohan Sequiera

Guests: Kristina Cook, Emily Vollmer, Yugasha Bakshi, Wesley Gibson, Karen Martens, , Morgan Ralph, Ron Meyers, Annie Lawrence, Barbara Wise, Eric Tatum, Adia Long, Jenn Million, Carol Davis, Emily Satterwhite, Larissa Gimmy, Han Nguyen, Sidnie Duncan, Nathan Li, Scott Kerklo, David Robertson, Steve Durfee, Chris Gyurisin, Mark Witt, Sean McGinnis, Shayan Choudry, Javad Torabinejad

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. Motion carried.

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 2, 2026

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

3. Presentation

Nathan King, Campus Sustainability Manager, presented on VT CAC charge and assessment process.

Scott Kerklo, Interim Deputy to University Engineer and Kyle White, Director of Capital Construction, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 5 – Operations of new buildings initiated by 2023 will be carbon neutral.

Nathan King, Campus Sustainability Manager, presented an overview of the Green RFP process and timeline.

Kristina Cook, Sustainability Program Coordinator, presented an overview of the 10 Green RFPs under review this year.

Teresa Sweeney, Waste and Recycling Manager, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 7 – To become a zero-waste campus by 2030.

4. Other Items

- Question by Sean on Goal 7 – What are the biggest hurdles to doing a waste audit ourselves?
- Nick Quint – Would the Green RFP program be a potential funding source for the waste audit?
- Question by Arturo Soriano on Goal 7 – There are students and student leaders in the community who are passionate about sustainability and zero-waste. Is it possible to use them as volunteers to offset the cost of needing dedicated staff to educate students and/or teachers about sustainable practices and increase overall student awareness and education on sustainable topics and progress towards goal 7?
- Nathan to Teresa – Any thoughts on doing a campus waste audit in-house with students and faculty and by possibly leveraging classes?
- Question by Nam Nguyen on the VTPD Green RFP proposal – Is the cost of the vehicle included in the proposal? Why would we fund a campus vehicle?
- Question by Scott Kerklo on Green RFP subcommittee – Do we have someone from non-capital construction serving on the Green RFP subcommittee?
- Question by Steve Durfee via Zoom chat – Would waste stream look different in summer versus winter? Could you offer summer research credit if you were to hire a summer intern?
- Question by Ron Myers via Microsoft form – In terms of financing the costs of renewable energy, the state has financing mechanisms to help with that, and private partners can do flipped ownership structures. I'd be interested in a conversation to better understand our capacity to explore various financing options, and if there are recommendations, you have that CASE could support.
- Question by Nathan Li via Microsoft form - Has there been any considerations toward adding an educational component to the Green RFP proposals to encourage projects on campus visibility to advertise the Green RFP program and why the projects are important/impactful?

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 pm.