

MINUTES

Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
March 23rd, 2026
2:00 PM
Newman Library, Room 101S or Zoom

Present – Nathan King (presiding), Ryan Zekra, Julie McClafferty, Sheree Andrews, Ian Dunbar for Kendra Paisley, Mehmedalp Tural, Saskia van de Gevel, Liza Morris, Nick Woods for Simon Allen, Susan Gill, Meghan Marsh, Nicci Ratcliff, Matt Stolte, Ken Belcher, Kyle White, Catherine Shewchuck for Sean Kenny, Kirsten Dean, Nam Nguyen, Teresa Sweeney,

Absent with Notice: Dwyn Taylor, Emily Williams, Carrie Cox, Joshua Clemons, Irene Leech, Grey Kieffer, Jennifer Walters

Absent: Rumana Rani, Saswat Gautam, Arturo Soriano, Ella Jackson, Sweta Baniya, Yohan Sequiera

Guests: Kristina Cook, Emily Vollmer, Yugasha Bakshi, Han Nugyen, Wesley Gibson, Karen Martens, Annie Lawrence, Jenni Goodman, Shannon Bell, Adia Long, Barbara Wise, Rachael Budowle, Nathan Li, Rob Emmett, Scott Kerklo, Sean McGinnis, Chris Gyurish, Steve Durfee, Mark Hayes, Charul Agrawal, Morgan Ralph, April Carvanza-Martinez, Shayan Choudry,

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 March 23, 2026

Nathan King noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the [Governance Website](#)

3. Presentation

Nathan King, Campus Sustainability Manager, presented an overview of the CAC assessment process and timeline.

Yugasha Bakshi, PGG PhD candidate and Graduate Assistant at the Office of Sustainability, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 12 – Diminish barriers to sustainable behaviors through institutional change, education and social marketing.

Nathan King, Campus Sustainability Manager, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 13 – Implement the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment at a high level of university administration and governance; by integrating goals for facilities, education, and campus culture; and with stakeholder engagement for evaluation of goals and progress.

Scott Kerklo, Facilities Operations Engineer, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 15 – Develop pathways after 2030 to eliminate fossil fuels and carbon offsets by 2050.

Sean McGinnis, Professor of Practice- Materials Science & Engineering and Director of VT Green Engineering, presented on 2025 CAC Assessment Process Goal 15 – Develop pathways after 2030 to eliminate fossil fuels and carbon offsets by 2050.

4. Other Items

- Question on Goal 12 – Who oversees policy level changes across departments? Is there a university-wide level department that we could pressure to take on some of these policy-level changes?
- Question on Goal 12 – Without dedicated staff, it is so hard to fully implement the CAC. Who can authorize these needed hires?
- Question on Goal 12 – Are there any open or previously advertised positions at Virginia Tech that could or would support the centralized communications needs identified?
- Question on Goal 13 – Is there an involvement of frontline community representatives or a consideration of social impacts when allocations are made to explore new technologies?
- Question on Goal 15 – Does Virginia Tech currently purchase carbon offsets? If there is a plan to do so in the future then, would the markets and accreditation schedules under consideration be a part of the framework?

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 pm.