

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2022

2:00pm

Zoom: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/82309064577?from=addon>

Present: Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Nathan King for Mary-Ann Ibeziako (presiding), Nick Woods for Ken Miller, Rosalba Ledezma for Liza Morris, John Randolph (Interim), Alan Grant, Rob Lowe, Matt Hagy, Blake Bensman, Elena Spinei Lind, Todd Schenk, Matthew Eick, Dana Hawley, Lucas Goodman, Gunhaar Panjwani for Vineela Eppe

Absent: Jamie Stein, LaTawnya Burleson, Abigail Belvin

Guests: Jeri Baker, Barbara Wise, Nick Quint, Steve Durfee, Simona Fried, Lowell Jesse, Eli Meyer, Scott Kerklo, Emily Vollmer, Kristina Cook, Autumn Timpano, Jamie McElfresh, Sean McGinnis, Mike Dunn, Jack Leff, Katie Smith, Teresa Thornton

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. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 28, 2022

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

3. Presentation

Nathan King (Campus Sustainability Manager), John Randolph (Interim Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Director), Emily Vollmer (Sustainability Coordinator), and additional Task Force conveners: Nick Quint, Simona Fried, Jack Leff, and Sean McGinnis gave a presentation that covered all agenda items including old and new business sections for the committee (attached).

4. Open Discussion

Kristina Cook led the open discussion.

Task Forces:

Nathan King and John Randolph both spoke to the importance of the task forces in helping us to push toward our goals for the next 3-8 years. It's exciting to be engaging more and more people around the university. This is how the CAC was accomplished- through the CAC working groups formed with people from all around campus/Town of Blacksburg. The task forces will become more and more important as we head to Fall semester. All who are interested are highly encouraged to become involved. Please send names of those you think might be interested to Kristina Cook.

Nathan King let the group know that we will keep the group updated on the name change, charge, and membership of the committee as the PCG's recommendations for the restructuring of governance move towards review by the BOV (June).

Scott Kerklo had a question about the task force involved with greening the vehicle fleets. Are we limited by state contracts that are already in place? He likes looking at the life cycle of vehicles but do we have more options in terms of hybrid or electric vehicles we can purchase through state contracts? Nick Quint had to be present at another meeting after he presented as his task force convener. Kristina Cook let Scott know she would put this question in the minutes and reach out to Nick for his input.

Green RFP Update:

Blake Bensman asked when Coca-Cola funding will be approved. Nathan King has not heard anything new but hopes to hear something end of this week.

Earth Week:

The tabling at Relay for Life was canceled as it was a large ask at the end of the week (108 hours of events already put into Earth Week) and 12 hours from 3pm-3am. If Earth Week and Relay overlap again in the future, it might be good to think about it again if we have enough volunteers. The idea was to make the table focus on the health and wellness aspects of Sustainability.

Sean McGinnis was curious about how many people showed up for the Moss Arts Center LEED Tour. Simona Fried updated that there was a really good turnout. Sustainability and Energy interns led that with the help of Steve Durfee. Steve showed them around the boiler room and pointed out the different LEED elements.

Sean McGinnis had a question about green graduation chords. Do we have an idea of how many students have signed up for that pledge? Nathan King: Yes. Emily Vollmer put in the chat that 117 chords have been distributed. This is above average. Sean asked if we still post those pledges on a website. Was that something we did in the past? Nathan answered, yes, in the past we've done Facebook and occasionally Instagram. Kristina Cook said she thinks Instagram would be a good choice.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm.



Energy & Sustainability Committee

April 25, 2022 – 2:00pm



Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Approval of Proposed Agenda (if a quorum is present)
- Meeting Minutes: Electronic Vote Results
- Old Business
 - Green RFP Update
 - Earth Week 2022 Recap
 - CAC Implementation Update
- New Business
 - CAC Task Forces Work Plans Presentations
 - Recognitions
- Open Discussion

Green RFP Update

- Still working with the Budget Office Review Committee, Jim Hillman, and other partners to iron out the final details on several projects.
 - Met with Ken Belcher and Nick Quint to review the potential covered bike rack locations around Newman and Hoge.
 - Met with Grounds, Public Safety, and Budget Office representatives on the Stadium Woods Restoration Green RFP.
 - Coca-Cola company will likely be funding several projects but still waiting on the final list.
- Still confident that 12 – 14 proposals will be approved.

Earth Week 2022 Highlights

- Sunday, April 17- Saturday, April 23
- ~40 events throughout the week
 - Ranging between 5-25 in attendance
- 22 sponsors
 - 12 campus/student organizations
 - 10 community groups
- Popular events
 - Horticulture club plant sale
 - Pop up thrift shop
 - Environmental Coalition rock painting
- Still to come
 - Lunch and learn, Glade Road growing farm tour, Arbor Day, “Just Eat It” screening





CAC Implementation Update



CAC Implementation Update

Projects, programs, studies:

lots of things happening but much more to be done



Goal 1: Campus GHG inventory

Goal 2: Solar development: 2 MW on building rooftops to be completed 2023

Goal 3: Steam/power plant boiler #12 upgrade; new generator; **chiller phase 2** upgrade in commissioning; back-up steam plant fuel study to eliminate coal (**no coal since 2019**)

Goal 4: \$6.2 M Energy Action Plan 6 approved: LED lighting and retro-commissioning projects **Smart Lab Program** under development (OEM, EHS)

Goal 5: LEED Gold: Student Athletic Performance Center (10/21); **Sustainability design criteria for new buildings:** Student Life Village TAG, Mitchell Hall

Goal 6/7: Zero Waste Campus consultant study; Campus Waste Manager

Goal 9: Alternative Transportation; **EV charging stations** on campus; **Multi-modal Facility;** **BT** partnership (e.g., electric buses)

CAC Implementation Update

Projects, programs, studies:

lots of things happening but much more to be done



Goal 10: 100+ core faculty associated with Climate Action Living Laboratory (CALL);
Faculty retreat with 50 attendees (9/17/21); multiple class & research projects

Goal 11-13: 8 Task Forces of Energy & Sustainability Committee, including Climate Justice, Sustainable Culture, GHG Inventory, Carbon Offsets, C-N Commuting, Education/Res.

Goals 12-13: CPIF reorganization: CASE unit, Chief Sustainability Officer
Student Engagement programs of **Office of Sustainability** (Internships; Green RFP (\$240K FY22 projects); Student Sustainability Forum; Green office and lab certification programs)

Goal 14: Engaged with OBFP for **innovative financing** of solar and energy efficiency projects

CAC Roadshow: meetings with campus leaders to promote university-wide engagement

CAC Implementation Update

Going Beyond CPIF: Engaging the Entire University

CAC Roadshow: meetings with campus leaders, faculty, commissions, groups to promote university-wide engagement in CAC implementation:

- Faculty Retreat (9/17/21)
- Senior Vice President-Chief Business Officer leadership (11/1/21)
- Division of Student Affairs leadership (2/23/22)
- Faculty Climate & Sustainability Education meeting (2/25/22); (4/1/22)
- VP for Equity and Accessibility (3/2/22)
- Enterprise Administrative & Business Services leadership (3/24/22)
- Faculty Senate (4/8); Undergraduate Student Senate (3/29); Graduate Student Senate (4/14/22)
- University Council (5/2/22)
- CPIF Operations (5/16/22); CPIF Campus Planning & Capital Finance (5/18/22)
- Advancement (7/11)
- Others to come: Staff Senate, President's Council, Provost leadership, Athletics, VT Foundation





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Carbon-Neutral (C-N) Commuting & C-N Fleet Task Force

Members: Mike Dunn, Durelle Scott, Erik Olsen (BT), and Nick Quint

Goal: Develop a timeline and strategy for upgrading VT's fleet to include EVs; installing EV charging infrastructure on campus; and developing mechanisms to advance non-single-occupancy vehicle (non-SOV) modes.

Update: Met twice this semester. FY23 work plan has 12 action items. Some highlights include:

- Introducing 5 more electric buses into BT's fleet
- Open the Blacksburg Transit Multi Modal Transit Facility
 - Includes 2 EV charging stations and 2 rapid charging stations for buses
- Develop metrics for measuring progress towards shifting to non-SOV modes
- Require the use of a total cost of ownership calculator prior to procuring any university vehicles

Policy 5505 Task Force

Members: Nathan King, Jack Leff, Todd Schenk

Goal: Review and revise Policy 5505 on Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction

Update: First round of edits and restructuring occurred in January 2022. Added a section 3.7 Procurement and made many updates to broken links and outdated information. Worked with Steve Durfee to review and edit sections 3.1 Efficiency and Conservation and 3.3 Operations and Maintenance in February. The Carbon Neutral Commuting and Carbon Neutral Fleet Taskforce began review of section 3.4 Transportation and Travel in March.

Timeline: Develop a final draft for E&SC review and approval by fall semester.

Sustainability Awards Task Force

Members: Emily Vollmer, LaTawnya Burleson, Kristina Cook

Goal: Create a campus-wide sustainability recognition program for both students and faculty/staff

Update:

- Benchmarking:
 - U of O and CU Boulder had good programs that we took notes from
 - Met with SA Aspire! Awards group; attended award ceremony in March
 - Working to set up meeting with SSD group to discuss Excellence in Access and Inclusion Awards
- Policy review (4335, 12010); currently seeking out information on process for establishing program with university recognition, continuing HR communications
- Award application, categories complete

Timeline:

- AY 2021-22: Learn more about the process for establishing the awards, develop categories and application process so we are ready to launch
- Fall 2022: Establish awards (application to HR, connecting with the right people, budgetary considerations)
- Spring 2023: Launch first round of the awards; applications open Jan-Feb, under review March, ceremony April (Earth Week)

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Task Force

Members: Stephen Durfee, Simona Fried (Convener), Matt Hagy, Rob Lowe, Sean McGinnis, Eli Meyer, Gary Ruppert

Goal: Develop a 2021 greenhouse gas inventory strategy which includes data acquisition, methodology, timeline, and scope.

Timeline:

- Collect all data including utility, transportation, agriculture, waste/wastewater information and conduct conversions as needed (Present – July 13th, 2022)
- Enter data into SIMAP platform (July 14th – August 5th, 2022)
- Quality check data and confirm accuracy (August 6th – August 30th, 2022)
- Submit annual 2021 greenhouse gas inventory to SIMAP (before August 31st, 2022)

Possible Research Topics and Expansion Opportunities:

- Upstream food emissions data collection and analysis
- Expansion to other university operations in the Commonwealth (data not included in Blacksburg footprint)

- Climate and Sustainability Education and Research (CSER)
- VT-Blacksbury Sustainability Collaboration



Climate & Sustainability Education & Research (CSER) Task Force

- **Task Force Members:**
 - John Randolph, Acting Director, CASE
 - Todd Schenk, Assoc. Professor, Urban Affairs & Planning
 - Sean McGinnis, Assoc. Professor of Practice, Materials Science Engineering
 - Jack Leff, PhD Candidate, STS, GA Office of Sustainability
- **Setting the stage for advancing VT Climate & Sustainability Education**
 - 100+ core faculty for **Climate Action Living Laboratory (CALL)**; Faculty retreat with 50 attendees (9/21), CALL Miro meeting (2/25/22), CALL social (4/1/22);
 - Inventory related majors, minors, courses
- **Agenda**
 - Advancing faculty collaboration
 - Further inventorying related programs, especially research
 - Connecting faculty expertise with CAC implementation
 - Meeting with Provost Office, Deans, Institute directors to discuss options for institutionalizing CALL

VT-Blacksburg Sustainability Collaboration Task Force

- **Task Force Members:**

- John Randolph, Acting Director, CASE
- Wendy Halsey, AVP, Operations, CPIF
- Emily Vollmer, VT Sustainability Coordinator
- Carol Davis, Blacksburg Sustainability Manager
- Ann Raridan, President, Sustainable Blacksburg

- **Setting TF Agenda:**

- Deal with all-things-sustainability not just climate action
- Develop a list of past and current sustainability collaborations
- Crosswalk Blacksburg and VT climate and sustainability plans and programs
- Use Sustainable Blacksburg forums to bring town residents into the conversation
- Potential projects/programs to consider:
 - Kentland compost facility (town carbon sources, town restaurant/grocery sources);
 - Alternative transportation (bike paths, land/streetscape entries to campus); fare-free Blacksburg Transit
 - EV charging station plan coordination;
 - Solar projects: Solarize; community solar; closed landfill (need agreement with APCO or enabling legislation (in Dominion service area we could do it with provision to provide 30% to low-income residents))

- . Climate Justice
- . Sustainable Campus Culture, Engagement, and Sustainable Choices



Carbon Offset & Management Task Force

- Members:** Sean McGinnis, Eli Meyer, John Randolph, Rob Lowe, Billy Dudding, Mary-Ann Ibeziako, Kristina Cook
- Goal:** The charge to the Carbon Offset and Management Task Force is to develop strategies for VT to acquire carbon offsets including local and regional options to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2030.
- Update:** First task force meeting last week. Monthly meetings will be schedule for June, July, and August. Critical topics include the following:
- Define acceptable carbon offsets characteristics
 - Identify and prioritize carbon offset options based on capacity, feasible, quality, and cost
 - Find VT collaborators for internal carbon offset development
 - Work closely with GHG Inventory Task Force to estimate the magnitude of carbon offsets required in future years
- Timeline:** The task force timeline is still under development which will continue this summer. By the end of next fall semester, we should have a preliminary carbon offset definitions as well as estimates of the required carbon offsets and percent achievement out through 2030.

Recognitions

- John Randolph
- Rob Lowe
- Matt Hagy
- Elena Lind
- Matthew Eick
- Jamie Stein
- LaTawnya Burleson
- Abigail Belvin
- Lucas Goodman
- Vineela Eppe



Thank you for your service!



Open Discussion

- Green RFP Update
- Earth Week 2022 Recap
- CAC Implementation Update
- CAC Task Forces Work Plans Presentations
- Other?

Next Meeting:

TBD Fall Semester 2022