

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
01/28/19 2:00 - 3:00pm | Burruss Hall 130

Attendees: Sarah McCoy for Sherwood Wilson, Debbie Greer for M. Dwight Shelton, Jr., Tamara Robinson for Chris Kiwus, Ken Black for Liza Morris, Lauren Snelson for Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Scott Kerklo, Edward Lener, Sean McGinnis, Erin Hopkins (conference call), Judy Taylor, Alan Grant, Angie De Soto, Caed Cunningham, Nick Quint, Ken Black for Liza Morris

Guests: Kate Franczek, Luke Juran, Barbara Wise, Nick Quint, Katelyn Kast, Jody Booze-Daniels

January Agenda Approved: Scott Kerklo motion, Sean McGinnis second

November Meeting Minutes Approved: Scott Kerklo motion, Ed Lener second

Old Business

Green RFP Program Overview

Historical Perspective:

- Green RFP Program is a Partnership between the Office of Budget & Financial Planning (OBFP) and the Facilities Department's Office of Sustainability (OS).
- Provides formal process for students to advance their sustainable ideas.
- Must support the VT Climate Action Commitment (1 or more of the 14 pts).
- Fast Track: Goal is to have student proposals submitted, reviewed by OS & subject matter experts, prioritized by Energy & Sustainability Committee (university governance), approved & funded by OBFP, with OS initiating implementation in same academic year.
- Green RFP Program launched in Academic Year 2010-2011.
- Total to date: 65 student proposals approved with funding in excess of \$650,000.
- This is a student program and proposals are submitted by student organizations.

2018-2019 Green RFP Overview

- Dr. Chris Kiwus Memorandum dated September 7, 2018 announced the program. He provided proposal criteria, outlined the process and milestones, the proposal format and a list of subject matter experts.
- The Office of Sustainability received a total of 66 proposals this year.
- Proposal Types:
 - Energy= 24 proposals
 - Waste Management= 13 proposals
 - Dining= 12 proposals
 - Landscape, Greenspace, and Signage= 6 proposals
 - Water Usage= 4 proposals
 - Stormwater Management= 3 proposals
 - Miscellaneous= 3 proposals
 - Alternative Transportation = 1 proposal

- Proposal Categories:
 - Category 1= Has merit and worthy of further consideration (32 proposals)
 - Category 2= Has merit, not ready to advance at this time (8 proposals)
 - Category 3= Does not have merit (13 proposals)
 - Category 4= Being addresses outside of the Green RFP Program (13 proposals)

Category 1 Proposals (30) By Type

- Energy= 18 proposals
- Dining= 3 proposals (1 proposal is the consolidation of 3 similar proposals)
- Stormwater Management = 3 proposals
- Landscape, Greenspace, & Signage = 2 proposals
- Water Usage= 2 proposals
- Waste Management= 2 proposals
- Miscellaneous = 0 proposals
- Alternative Transportation = 0 proposals

Category 1 Proposals (30) Summary Table

- The Office of Sustainability prepared a draft Summary Table which contains the following key information for each proposal: the title and brief description, the student organization submitting the proposal, the one-time cost, the recurring cost (if applicable), and an impact narrative that includes stakeholder comments, endorsement letters, the annual savings and payback period.
- The Summary Table is a valuable tool and well received by university senior leadership.
- At this point in time the 30 Category 1 proposals are NOT in priority order.
- Denny stated these proposals will be presented to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning in priority order, and they will decide which funding sources are used for which project. Each project competes on its own regardless of its priority order.
- Using the draft Summary Table Denny Cochrane introduced each proposal to the members. The following is a brief list of each proposal and comments:
 - a. LED Lights - Math Emporium
 - i. Replace metal halides with LED lights, and saves a significant amount of money per year, with a payback period of 2.15 years.
 - ii. Proposal has endorsement letters from Provost Office and College of Science (this is the case for the HVAC upgrade as well)
 - b. HVAC Upgrade - Math Emporium, this will include programmable thermostats
Questions: *Is the Math Emporium VT property? We currently lease this, but we will own this space soon and already pay for maintenance cost as is. What is the funding source for the Math Emporium? Auxiliary? E&G? Recommendation from Debbie Greer for a tiered funding approach, especially if E&G funding is used.*
 - c. Outdoor LED Lights- Cassell Coliseum
 - d. Outdoor LED Lights- Newman Library/University Bookstore area, or the Lee/Pritchard/Payne Residence Halls area- Virginia Tech Electric Service supports doing just one of the areas, and both require same number of fixtures.
Questions: *Do we know which one is in more use? Which one affects students more? The funding will likely come from VTES, and they only have the reserve funds to do one. Denny also recaps how the funding works- these are presented to budget office and they decide which funds are used for which project. Each project competes on its own.*
 - e. Hallway Lights Payne Hall - The student groups Environmental Innovation at Virginia Tech and Environmental Coalition together submitted proposals pertaining to 11 Residence Halls. The Division of Student Affairs Associate

Director of Facilities participated in their preparation of all of them.

- f. Sink Lights Pritchard Hall
- g. Sink Lights Lee Hall
- h. Sink Lights Vawter Hall
- i. Sink Lights Barringer Hall
- j. Sink Lights Eggleston East Hall
- k. Sink Lights Eggleston Main Hall
- l. Sink Lights Eggleston West Hall
- m. Sink Lights Johnson Hall
- n. Sink Lights Miles Hall
- o. Sink Lights Newman Hall

Question: *How should we prioritize them?* Up to the subcommittee, but would advise starting with the residence halls that have the most rooms and shortest payback period.

- p. Green Lab Initiative- This came from an idea with Ruben Avagyan and Ellen Garcia, PhD student and submitted by Office of Sustainability Waste Interns. Laboratory facilities are our biggest campus energy consumers.
- q. Hot Water Recirculation in Residence Halls- It takes a very long time for hot water to reach the top floor of the residence halls.

Question: *Is this proposal for changing pipes in the actual building or on the utility side- concern because the utility commitment is at the end of its service life for some of the older residence halls.*

- r. Outdoor Dog Run for the Virginia - Maryland College of Vet Medicine- Joint proposal from the Class of 2019 and 2020, approached Annie Pearce from Building and Construction, Myers Lawson donating money to this, and students will build this - the cost shown is what's needed to be finished, most of this is already funded

Question: *What is the sustainability impact of this project? The goal of this program is to fund sustainability projects, but this one is more mitigating impacts? Also concern that this is partially funded by donation, and there may be pushback to go back to donors to fund this.*

- s. Rainwater Catchment System - There is movement to make Hahn Horticulture Garden a sustainability showcase
- t. Stroubles Creek Watershed Restoration- 2nd of 3 phases which started last fall
- u. Water Bottle Refill Stations (2) Kelly Hall
- v. Solar Power Charging Tables (2) Bishop Favrao Hall- Department Head of Building Construction has provided support to put these on the lawn facing the Lumen House, Cost is a high ball number in case there was a slab that needed to be built in addition to the table. This number includes delivery and production.
- w. Solar Charging Station Near Bus Stop (Location TBD)

Question: *Sean McGinnis is concerned with usage of current tables. He asked if we have data on how much the current tables are being used. Denny says he does not have data, but that he sees students using them all the time. Angie De Soto, asks is there a sensor or a way to track how much people are actually using the charger? He will check with the manufacturer. Sean wonders, if there is something plugged in all the time the energy is going nowhere, verses a panel that collects solar energy and puts in back in the grid.*

- x. Reusable-to-Go Return Stations - We are getting away from OZZI, and moving to a simply collection box without card readers (because card readers aren't being used) which is more economical.
- y. Reusable-to-Go Containers

- z. Compostable Utensils Pilot Program- Turner : Plastics 3-7 are no longer recycled in Montgomery County, therefore the plastic utensils are no longer recyclable; still need to determine the cost plastic silverware now and what compostable utensils will cost therefore the cost on this chart is high, and really should reflect the delta between plastic and compostable utensils

Question: *Is Turner composting already?* Yes, on the back end but working on education for the front end. *Are there any utensils that are plastic 1's and 2's?* Not that we are aware of. Deny will check with Anthony Purcell in Dining Services.

- aa. Electronic Waste Recycling Bins

- bb. Mixed Paper Recycling Toters for Architectural Studios - There is an issue with space at the loading dock, which is getting worked out.

Question: *Will this increase rate of recycling, or will it just make it more orderly?* Denny's understanding is that there is a lot of material that isn't getting recycled, and capturing that will definitely increase our recycling figures and recycle rate.

- cc. Battery Powered Blower

Question: Ed Lener asked if there is a minimum cost for any projects. No.

- dd. Bat Boxes

- Members who have additional questions were encouraged to send Denny an email.

The Energy and Sustainability Committee Responsible to Prioritize Category 1 Proposals

- The Green RFP Subcommittee formed to review the proposals and place them in a recommended priority order for presentation and approval at our next regularly scheduled E&SC meeting on February 25, 2019
- Green RFP Subcommittee members include: Denny Cochrane, Ed Lener, Rob Lowe, Siddhartha and Caed Cunningham

New Business

Single Stream Recycling Container Decal Modification

- Original single stream decals stated we can recycle plastics #1-7, but no longer.
- Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority will only accept plastics #1 & #2.
- Patch placed on the decals of single stream recycling containers to reflect change.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned. Next Meeting February 25, 2019 at 2pm at the North End Center.