

Energy & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
09/23/19 2:00 - 3:00pm | Burruss Hall 130

Attendees: Kayla Smith for Sherwood Wilson, Debbie Greer for Ken Miller, Jon Clark Teglas for Chris Kiwus, Blake Bensman for Frances Keene, Denny Cochrane, Scott Kerklo, Rob Glenn, Rob Lowe, Virgilio Centeno, Elena Spinei Lind, Matthew Eick, Sean McGinnis for Erin Hopkins

Guests: Nathan King, Kate Franczek, Nick Quint, Jody Booze Daniels, Barbara Wise, and Sandy Hancock

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

Review of E&SC Charge

To review and provide advice to the University Administration on broad policy issues relating to the university's pursuit of environmental quality through action, education, and engagement to address current needs without compromising the capacity and needs of future generations.

Meeting Agenda Approved: Virgilio Centeno motion to approve, second by Scott Kerklo

Old Business

2018-19 Green RFP Implementation

- Formal process for students to submit sustainability ideas to leadership for approval and funding consideration
- AY 2018-19 record 66 student proposals submitted, with record 18 of those approved
- Record funding of \$552,000
- Since program initiated in AY 2010-11, 83 proposals and \$1.2 million

Title (In recommended priority order)	Student Organization	Cost
1. Indoor LED Lights- Math Emporium	Office of Energy Management- Student Interns	\$194, 300
2. HVAC Upgrade- Math Emporium	Office of Energy Management- Student Interns	\$8, 000

3. Hallway LED Lights Payne Hall	Environmental Innovation	\$10, 700
4. Newman Library & University Bookstore Outdoor LED Lights	Environmental Coalition	\$14, 300
5. Cassell Coliseum Parking Lot LEDs	UAP 3354	\$16, 700
6. Green Lab Initiative	Office of Sustainability- Student Intern Waste Team	\$3,700
7. Indoor Sink LED Lights for 10 Residence Halls	Environmental Innovation	\$103,600
8. Stroubles Creek Watershed Restoration	Stroubles Creek Coalition, VT StREAM Lab, Environmental Coalition, & American Water Resource Association (VT student chapter).	\$5, 500
9. Mixed Paper Recycling Bins Cowgill & Burchard Hall	UAP 3354	\$2, 000
11. Reusable To-Go Containers - (single entree, triple entree, soup)	UAP 3354 & REAL 3024	\$16, 100
12. Rainwater Catchment System Hahn Horticulture Garden	UAP 3354	\$2, 200
13. Water Bottle Refill Stations (2) Kelly Hall	Biomedical Engineering Society- (VT Student Chapter)	\$5, 000
14. Hot Water Recirculation for select Residence Halls	Office of Sustainability- Student Intern Water Team	\$150, 000

15. Electronic Waste Recycling Bins (2)	UAP 3354	\$400
16. Bat Boxes	UAP 3354	\$200
17. Battery Powered Blower for the Hahn Horticulture Garden	Hahn Horticulture Garden- Student Maintenance Staff	\$200
18. Solar Power Charging Tables Bishop-Favrao	Department of Building Construction- BioBuild Studio Course	\$9,700
19. Outdoor Dog Run for VMCVM	Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Classes of 2019 & 2020	\$10,000
	Total Funded	\$552,600

Green Lab Initiative

- \$3,700 approved for Green Lab Initiative through 2018-19 Green RFP
- On hold currently as the Campus Energy Manager, Ruben Avagyan, has left VT and we are currently filling this position

New Business

APPA Sustainability Innovation Award in Facilities Management

- APPA = Association of Physical Plan Administrators
- Sustainability Innovation Award is new
- VT received for the Green RFP Program
- 1 of 5 schools which won the award

Sustainability Week 2019 Highlights

- Sustainability Week is a partnership with Town of Blacksburg, Sustainable Blacksburg (local citizen's group), and Virginia Tech
- Over 25 events with the goal to encourage all of us to live a more sustainable lifestyle through practical examples
- September 14-22: Events to include Bicycle Tour, Town Bike Ride, speakers, Stadium Woods tour and clean up

- Launched in 2007, received state recognition (Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in 2008 and 2017)
- Blake Bensman (Sustainable Dining) comments on the amount of student involvement this year (Reusable-To-Go containers)
- Nike Quint (Alternative Transportation) comments on helmet give away at Active Commute Celebration, partners with Gregory Weiner Foundation, bike share is going well and there are negotiations to increase bike fleet and switch out bikes to electric assist (goal is within 1 year)

Student Internship Program

- 20 students on 4 different teams
- One-year commitment for students
- Energy - Working on bike census to update bike parking master plan (partnership with the Office of University Planning and Alternative Transportation)
- Water- Working on educational exhibit focused on stormwater management at the new Children's Museum at New River Valley Mall in Christiansburg (partnering with Site & Infrastructure Development)
- Food - Helping with Food Pro database by tagging locally sourced food, recycled and compostable good, choose to reuse pop up stand; working with Blake Bensman (Sustainability Manager Housing and Residence Life)
- Waste- Zero Waste Events in partnership with Blake Benson (Sustainability Manager Housing and Residence Life)

Green Tailgate Recycling

- Recycling material collected:
 - ODU: 0.91 tons
 - Furman: 0.6 tons
- Home games left:
 - 9/27 vs. Duke
 - 10/12 vs. Rhode Island
 - 10/19 vs. UNC
 - 11/9 vs. Wake Forest
 - 11/23 vs. Pitt
- Always looking for student volunteers!

2019-2020 Green RFP Program

- Program starts in early fall, and continues throughout the year. Projects are funded and executed in the same fiscal year.
- Timeline:
 - **Sep 16 - Green RFP 2018-19 announcement**
 - Nov 8 - Proposal deadline to Office of Sustainability
 - Nov 13 - Office of Sustainability coordinates proposal review
 - Jan 27 - E&SC appoints Subcommittee to review & prioritize proposals

- Feb 24 - Subcommittee presents recommendations to E&SC for approval
- Mar 4 - E&SC presents proposals to the Office of Budget & Financial Planning
- Mar/Apr - OBFP convenes Budget Review Committee- identifies funding sources
- Apr/May - Select proposals approved - implementation initiated
- Evaluation Criteria:
 - Does the proposal help to achieve the goals of the [Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment](#) and [Sustainability Plan](#)?
 - Does the proposal generate savings that exceed the cost of implementation?
 - Does the proposal pertain to energy reduction/conservation that produces cost savings?
 - Does the funding request address a one-time or an ongoing need?
 - Does the proposal leverage other sources of funding or volunteer effort?
- Comment from Debby Greer that Chief Financial Officer will now be VP of Finance

Policy Pyramid

- University is trying to standardize how we do policies and procedures
- A policy answers the question: why do I need to do this? (This doesn't necessarily align us with how we are going to do these things)
- Example: Climate Action Commitment states *what* we are going to do, while Policy 5505 says *how* we are going to do these items
- Policy 5505 needs to be cleaned up, and that is a goal for the committee this year (what we do not need, what we are missing i.e. dining, computer purchasing)
- Sub-committee: Debbie Greer (finance), Scott Kerklo (Mech Eng), Virgil Centeno (Faculty)

Open Discussion

- General discussion about Climate Strike
- For any information about sustainability, you can go to OoS website and click on the sustainability reports

Next Meeting on October 28, 2019, Burruss Hall, Conference Room 130, at 2:00pm

Meeting Adjourned: Motion from Debbie Greer, Second by Scott Kerklo