

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2010
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Presidents Board Room, Burruss Hall

Present: Fred Selby, Melinda West (for Dwight Shelton), John Beach (for Mike Coleman), Leigh Lally (for Lynn Eichhorn), Denny Cochrane, Bruce Ferguson, Rob Lowe, Madeline Schreiber, Mintai Kim, Richard Hirsh (for John Randolph), Nancy McGehee, Becky Saylor, Paul Winistorfer, Kapil Panchal, Lauren Miller, and Kara Dodson (for Kyle Gardiner).

Absent: Sherwood Wilson, Rick Johnson, Spencer Riddle, Tom Tucker.

Guests: Angie De Soto.

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Chair Fred Selby called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and due to several new first-time attendees, invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed, including the additional agenda item to review and approve draft minutes from the September 27, 2010 Committee meeting.

Approval of the September 27, 2010 Minutes

Draft minutes from the September 27, 2010 meeting were presented. It was pointed out that under the “Proposed Future Meeting Dates / Times” section, the date of the November meeting was incorrectly listed as “November 11, 2010”. The correct date is November 29, 2010. The Committee then approved the amended Minutes.

Old Business

1) Draft Revision 2 to University Policy 5505: “Campus Energy, Water, and Waste Reduction”

Per September’s meeting proposal that the Committee revisit the current draft revision 2 to University Policy 5505 in light of Commonwealth of Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell’s recent issuance of Executive Order 19 (2010) “Conservation and Efficiency in the Operation of State Government”, formation of a subcommittee was proposed to assess and recommend appropriate changes to Policy 5505 for the Committee’s consideration. The proposed subcommittee, to be led by Rob Lowe and with Denny Cochrane and Fred Selby participating, was agreed to by the Committee.

2) Game Day Tailgate Recycling Update

Angie De Soto informed the committee that Game Day Recycling has been a huge hit with fans this season. Although there have been some challenges with volunteer recruitment, she shared the exciting news that Virginia Tech is now working with a new

materials recovery facility for the rest of the season that will sort through all of the trash to ensure that all recyclable materials are pulled out and recycled properly. The Game Day Recycling planning committee is comprised of 4 organizations - the Office of Energy and Sustainability, YMCA, Student Government Association, and Environmental Coalition - and planning for next season has already begun.

3) Office of Energy and Sustainability Scorecard Update

Due to the need for adequate time to review the time-sensitive Green RFP proposals, this item was tabled until the November meeting.

4) 2010-2011 Request for Proposal for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) Prioritization

The University created a pilot program to solicit and respond to proposals from recognized student organizations to help advance campus sustainability. The criteria for proposal selection, the process, the format, and milestones for proposal submissions are described in the Memorandum, “2010-2011 Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP Pilot Program)” dated September 3, 2010. The role of the Energy and Sustainability Committee is to act as a third party to review and prioritize all proposals.

At the September 27, 2010 meeting the Energy and Sustainability Committee established a Green RFP Subcommittee who would have the role to review all proposals and to make initial prioritization recommendations to the Committee. The four person Green RFP Subcommittee consisted of Denny Cochrane (Chair), Madeline Schreiber (faculty member), Rob Lowe (staff member), and Spencer Riddle (student member). The Green RFP Subcommittee met on October 22, 2010 and reviewed and prioritized all proposals.

Denny Cochrane presented eight Green RFPs to the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Rob Lowe recommended placing proposals into three categories as follows: (1) those recommended for approval and funding consideration; (2) those that had merit, but needed more analysis and were, therefore, not recommended at this time; and (3) those not recommended for approval and funding. The Energy and Sustainability Committee concurred. Rob Lowe recommended the following prioritization for the eight proposals:

- A. Four Green RFPs are recommended for approval and funding considerations, and are shown below in the following priority order:
 1. Bike Racks (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 1.docx”): The Environmental Coalition requests the purchase of ten standard “5 Loop” Bike Racks to be placed in academic areas. Each bike rack costs \$500. If a cement pad is needed, the additional cost is \$500. In either case, the installation is to be done using in-house labor at a cost of \$30. The maximum cost per bike rack is

- \$1,030, and the maximum total cost for ten bike racks is \$10,300. This proposal is also strongly endorsed by the Student Government Association.
2. Mixed Paper Recycling Containers (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 2.docx”): The Environmental Coalition requests ten 1 ½ cubic yard containers to be placed at regional recycling and trash collection locations in the residence hall area. The heavy-duty Rubbermaid container comes with a covered lid, is used at other locations on campus, and is available from a local supplier. The total cost for ten containers is \$7,346.
 3. Virginia Power Shift Conference, Fall 2011 (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 3.pdf”) The Environmental Coalition requests \$5,638 to host this conference at Virginia Tech. In 2008 our university hosted Virginia Power Shift 2008 and Angie De Soto stated that 17 colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia participated. The request is based on historical costs from the 2008 conference.
 4. Sustainable Garden Irrigation (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 4.pptx”): Drip Irrigation System and water line connection for the Sustainable Garden Demonstration project located near the Smithfield Plantation sponsored by the Sustainable Food Corps. In-house labor to be utilized. Total cost is \$1,130.
- B. Two of the proposals had merit, but needed additional analysis and were not recommend for funding at this time. Specifically:
5. Solar Powered Generator (SUNRNR) (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 5.pptx”): Proposed by the Environmental Coalition, this proposal requests the purchase of a portable solar power generator for the University Unions and Student Activities (UUSA) Production Services that can be used to provide power support to events held around the campus where a power source may not be readily available. The primary system contains one solar panel and one rechargeable battery system. The intent is to purchase the primary system and one additional solar panel for a total cost of \$3,300. Issues surrounding ownership, storage, maintenance, usage, were of a concern at this time.
 6. Outdoor Individual Recycling Containers for Aluminum Cans and Bottles (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 6.pdf”): Proposed by the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) the intent is to purchase 25 outdoor individual recycling containers and pair them with the existing standard university approved outdoor individual trash containers. The cost per container from a university approved vendor is \$625. This proposal requested 25 containers for a total cost of \$15,625. While the proposal suggests a one-time cost, this proposal references the need for more than 25 containers. The Facilities Services Department had issues with adding more collection given their current labor force strength. More analysis needed to be done.
- C. Two proposals were not deemed feasible for a variety of reasons, and thus were not recommended for funding. Specifically:

7. Terracycle Receptacles for Residence Halls (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 7.pdf”): This unique proposal was submitted by a member of the Environmental Coalition for a cost of \$1,481. For a variety of reasons the Subcommittee did not support placing this type of recycling container inside the residence halls.
8. Green Wall/Modular Trellis (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 8.pdf”): This proposal was submitted by the Urban Affairs and Planning Student Association (UAPSA) for \$3,900. The intent is to establish a system in which climbing vegetation that is rooted in the ground is trained to cover a designated supporting structure that is fastened to an exterior wall. The modular trellis system would provide shade and cools the building in the summer, and retains the building heat in the winter. The university currently has no vegetation on building exterior walls and when asked to review this proposal Facilities Services Department leadership strongly opposed this concept for a number of reasons. An alternative would be to plant additional shade trees near existing buildings which could accomplish similar objectives without being fastened to buildings.

The Energy and Sustainability Committee approved the recommendations as stated above and requested the Office of Sustainability forward them to the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for review, approval, and funding consideration. Denny Cochrane will do this.

5) Alternative Transportation Follow-Up

Fred Selby presented an update in response to specific questions and concerns regarding disincentives for alternative transportation – (1) the new \$15 Bike, Bus, and Walk (BB&W) program fee and (2) lack of bike racks - that were raised in September’s meeting. The update (see “E&SC 102510 Attachment 9.pptx”) was based on input provided ahead of time by Alternative Transportation Manager Debby Freed (who was invited to, but unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict) and included recommendations to seek outside funding for the BB&W program and to identify funds for additional bike racks.

New Business

1) Office of Sustainability Name Change to “Office of *Energy and Sustainability*”

Fred Selby informed the Committee that the Office of Sustainability name was formally being changed to “Office of *Energy and Sustainability*” in order to reflect an increasing focus on energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction for the Office. Updates to the current Office of Sustainability website (<http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/>) are planned for the near future to reflect this change.

2) Alternative Summer Class Scheduling Around Electrical Demand Management

Due to the need for adequate time to review the time-sensitive Green RFP proposals, this item was also tabled until the November meeting.

3) Open Discussion

No new items were raised by the Committee.

Future Meetings

Dates: The remaining scheduled meeting dates for Academic Year 2010-2011 are as follows:

- November 29, 2010
- December 13, 2010 (Room 325 Conference Room, Burruss Hall)
- January 31, 2011
- February 28, 2011
- March 21, 2011
- April 25, 2011

Times and Location: All meetings will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Presidents Board Room, 210 Burruss Hall unless noted above.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.