

Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2010
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Presidents Board Room, Burruss Hall

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

Absent: Rick Johnson, Spencer Riddle, Madeline Schreiber.

Guests: Angie De Soto, David Gibbs.

Call Meeting to Order and Welcome Guests

Chair Fred Selby called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda as proposed, including the substitution of agenda item “Office of Energy and Sustainability Scorecard Update” with the item “Building Electricity Consumption Reporting.”

Approval of the October 25, 2010 Minutes

Draft minutes from the October 25, 2010 meeting were presented and approved by the Committee.

Old Business

1) Alternative Transportation Update

Per discussion from the previous two meetings, Debby Freed was invited to provide an update on the University’s Alternative Transportation programs. Highlights from her update follow:

Charging for Bike, Bus, and Walk – Although charging for this program (\$15/semester, \$30/year) caused a dramatic drop in the number of employees and students who registered for the program this year, it did not cause the number of regular parking permits sold to increase. This means that charging for the BB&W program has not discouraged people from using alternate modes of transportation. They are still using them, they are just not willing to pay to join the program. Debby is working with BT to potentially obtain grant funding to go back to offering the program for free, but is not optimistic funding will be available.

Bike Parking Situation – Debby has seven 5-loop bike racks currently on order and has worked with the Environmental Coalition, her intern Lyndsay McKeever, and members

of the New River Valley Bicycle Association to rank the top 15 sites on the academic side of campus in need of additional bike racks. Over the winter she hopes to have those racks placed, and will have areas of highest need identified for the additional bike racks that will be funded through the Green RFP process.

Multi Modal Transfer Facility – The new transfer center is planned to be located on Perry Street, adjacent to the new parking garage. The facility will be built in Perry St. facility vicinity and will function as a transfer station for Blacksburg Transit, Home Ride, and Smart Way bus, as well as a potential hub for bike share program. Massing studies and site designs are currently in progress. The Town of Blacksburg and Virginia Tech were to hold public meetings to solicit input on the project the following Tuesday and Wednesday evening (November 30 and December 1.)

Megabus – Megabus, a private bus company, will start serving the Falling Branch Park and Ride lot (exit 118 off I-81) on December 15th. This will be a stop that will terminate to the north in DC, and to the west in Knoxville, TN. Fares are amazingly low – starting as low as \$1 for a one-way ticket to DC.

2) 2010-2011 Request for Proposal for Student Organization Sustainability Initiatives (Green RFP) Prioritization

At its previous meeting on October 25, 2010, the Energy and Sustainability Committee reviewed and prioritized the eight student organization sustainability initiatives (Green RFPs) submitted to the Office of Energy and Sustainability. Denny Cochrane reported he subsequently prepared a notebook with all pertinent documentation, and on October 29, 2010 presented it to Tim Hodge (Director, Office of Budget and Financial Planning) for review, approval, and funding consideration. To date all milestones as established in the pilot program have been met. A copy of that documentation was provided to committee members during this meeting for information.

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

Chair Rob Lowe reported his subcommittee has prepared an initial draft revision 2a to Campus Policy 5505 that incorporate the guidelines and specific directives in Governor Robert F. McDonnell’s Executive Order 19 (2010). The goal is to provide that draft to the full Energy and Subcommittee for review and comments at the December 13, 2010 meeting.

New Business

1) Summer 2011 Electrical Demand Management

Fred Selby shared a presentation (see “E&SC 112910 Attachment 1.pptx”) on activities Facilities Services are already undertaking to reduce summertime electrical demand-related costs. In addition the presentation identified several potential increased demand-related savings opportunities for summer 2011. A request for formation of a subcommittee was made to explore the feasibility of these opportunities; in response, John Beach, Angie De Soto, Richard Hirsch, Mintai Kim, and Tom Tucker volunteered

to serve on that subcommittee, which will be chaired by Fred Selby. A kickoff meeting will be scheduled within the next three weeks.

2) Building Electricity Consumption Reporting

Fred Selby informed the committee of a new electricity reporting program from the Office of Energy and Sustainability that will generate 11" x 17" building electricity consumption posters for individual buildings that will be placed prominently on building bulletin boards. Each report will contain monthly building electricity consumption, cost, equivalent GHG emissions, and temperature (degree day) data in both tabular and graphical formats. In addition, a graph comparing electricity consumption (normalized for building gross square footage) with the building's "peer group" and a relevant monthly Energy Savings Tip section will be included in the poster report. Tentative plans are to begin generating posters in December that will include November and fiscal year-to-date consumption data. A sample report was presented to the committee (see slide 11 of "E&SC 112910 Attachment 1.pptx"). Tom Tucker informed the group that the new FICAS program could potentially also be used as the database to generate similar reports; the Subcommittee agreed that would be discussed offline.

3) Thanksgiving and Winter Break Air Handler Shutdowns

Fred Selby informed the Committee of Facilities Services' plans to once again implement a Thanksgiving Break Air Handler shutdown schedule. He showed the Committee the Facilities Services website announcement, schedule, and list of impacted buildings. A similar schedule will be implemented over the winter break.

4) SEI College Sustainability Report Card 2011 B+ Rating

Denny Cochrane stated the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI) has awarded Virginia Tech an overall "B+" rating on their "College Sustainable Report Card 2011." This marks the third consecutive year that the university's overall rating has increased. A total of 322 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada participated this year and the comprehensive results may be viewed at: <http://www.greenreportcard.org>. SEI used four surveys to obtain data which included: a campus survey, a dining survey, an endowment survey, and a student survey. Responses to those surveys were used to determine ratings in nine separate categories. Virginia Tech received an "A" rating for six of the nine categories to include: Administration, Climate Change & Energy, Green Building, Student Involvement, Transportation, and Investment Priorities. The six campus operations categories all received "A" or "B" ratings. The Virginia Tech one-page profile is shown at: <http://www.greenreportcard.org/report-card-2011/schools/virginia-polytechnic-institute-and-state-univ>.

5) Arbor Day Foundation "Root for the Home Team Competition"

Denny Cochrane announced that Virginia Tech won the "Root for Your Home Team" contest and will receive \$2,500 in free trees from Tree Campus USA, a program of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation that is supported by Toyota. More than 900 Virginia Tech students, alums, donors, and supporters signed up to become Tree Planters at www.abordaynow.org. These funds will be used to purchase trees to be planted in the

spring 2011. The Arbor Day Foundation Press Release is shown at:
http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/arbor_day_2010.pdf.

In addition, the Virginia Tech News Daily Email contained a university announcement on December 2, 2010. See: <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2010/12/120210-tcs-treeplanters.html>.

6) Open Discussion

Kara Dodson invited members of the Committee to stop by the Beyond Coal Research Exhibit to be held the following day at Squires, 2nd floor atrium area.

Future Meetings

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

- December 13, 2010 (**Note: 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.