Presidents Climate Commitment
Meeting Notes
January 12, 2009

Present: Coulter, Crowley, Fabritius, Hamm, Hansen, Jamison, Miles, Noltemeyer, Nyerges, Perkins, Pratt, Sweis, Werner

Cheryl Coulter, director of our campus recycling program, joined us to describe the upcoming RecycleMania campaign. That organization has several categories of competition, Centre will participate in the Per Capita Classic category. This involves the weight of all recycled materials per enrollment. The program is conducted from Jan 17 to Mar 27, with the first two weeks serving as baseline. Cheryl reported that as of this point in the fiscal year, our total recycling results are significantly ahead of the same point last year (27 tons relative to 22 tons). She shared with us that all of our recycling is picked up by Boyle County Solid Waste, and is then purchased by BlueGrass Regional Recycling Center.

Laura Hansen has worked closely with Cheryl to publicize the RecycleMania competition through: a Facebook group, a “dorm-storm”, a limited number of posters, a LED bulb distribution effort, and articles in the Danville Advocate-Messenger, Notesworthy, and Front and Centre.

Laura is working with Scott Messer and Cheryl to conduct a trash audit early in spring term. Plans are to collect trash from 14 different buildings. On a tarp in front of the Campus Center, student volunteers will separate and weigh the recycleables and trash and then report those results widely. This has great potential to educate all of us about the progress we can make advancing recycling.

Patrick and Bethany had investigated the STARS program offered by AASHE. Their report is inserted here:

Feasibility Report | AASHE’s STARS Program

The STARS program provided by the AASHE bills itself as a beneficial resource for institutions of higher education that wish to advance their level of sustainability.

Participating Schools similar to Centre: DePauw University (SCAC), Denison University, Earlham College, Furman College (ACS), Middlebury College, Williams College

The STARS program requires that institutions submit information relating to sustainability in four areas: Education & Research, Operations, Planning, Administration & Engagement, and Innovation.

Schools receive one of five possible STARS ratings: reporting, bronze, silver, gold, or platinum. Ratings are based on information provided by the institution. Ratings are good for three years, though the institution can apply for a new rating once per year, at an additional registration cost of $900-$1400).

Registration for non-AASHE member schools (like Centre) is $1400.00 (good for three years – must be renewed to get a new rating). Member schools pay $900.00. Membership in AASHE costs $1000.00 annually.
Benefits: Framework provided for assessment, Tracking of data over time (but all data is provided by the institution), Publicity – allowed to use AASHE/STARS logo in publications

Summary: I do not see this as a beneficial investment for the institution at this time. The framework that STARS uses to measure the four areas is public and free, and can be used as a guide for current reporting. The benefits do not currently outweigh the cost.

Elizabeth reported by email on her investigation of CHEFS. This is a auditing system for dining hall operations [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_campuses/chefs.php](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_campuses/chefs.php). At this point, the program is in beta-test stage on 13 campuses and not available for general participation. We can reinvestigate this in the future.

Mike reported on an offset program sponsored by Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. This organization restores poorly reclaimed surface mining lands, with benefits of soil/water conservation, CO₂ sequestration, and habitat restoration. Two migratory songbirds that would be helped by this project are the cerulean warbler and the golden-winged warbler, both of which are declining precipitously. We can keep this as an opportunity when we reach a point of off-campus offset purchases.

Bethany and Brett reported on the new campus gardens project. This will be a student organization, recognized and funded by Student Government. Initial plan is a spring and fall garden that would supply Cowan/Sodexho. Bethany’s notes from the initial meeting are attached at the end of this document. Our committee was very supportive of this effort. Endre emphasized what a new and great step this will be for sustainability at Centre and for our student’s learning opportunities. Terry suggested contacts for a successful garden program at Miami (OH).

Preston reported on progress on a campus survey of knowledge and attitudes toward sustainability. Brett provided names of two students that would like to help with this project.

Laura initiated a discussion of how we might involve students with recycling more strongly. Suggestions included integration into a class, especially HHP. Patrick mentioned this course is receiving continuing attention and is not likely to be a good point for recycling. Student clubs were mentioned, particularly sports teams. The recycling effort might serve as a locale for students to “work off” their community service requirement from campus behavior violations. Preston will contact Dept Public Safety.

Mike F. asked if 8760 Engineering has gotten back with us concerning the energy audit services they offered. Preston will follow up.

Liz asked the committee if any of us have had conversations or questions regarding the recently released Climate Action Plan. The absence of any discussion may indicate the report is not receiving the attention we feel it deserves.
Jan. 9, 2010 Campus Garden Meeting

Agenda/ things to discuss:

What do you want to accomplish with this garden?
  • What are our goals and objectives with this garden?
  • What strategies do we want to use to integrate this garden into the campus community?
    Do we want to open the garden to the Danville community?
  • What scale do you want this garden to be at?
  • What are long and short term goals for the garden?
  • Funding, gardening/planning committees
  • Ideas/ strategies for dealing with seasonality of garden
  • How do we want to accomplish all of this?
  • More questions, ideas, etc…
  • Set a date for next meeting

Goals:

  • Supply to Cowan
  • Water source close to garden?
  • Educational tool
  • Educational tool for Centre and Danville
  • Campus involvement
  • Jumping off point for green campus
  • Composting

Long term:

  • Include small personal beds
  • bees
  • Partnership between faculty and students
    o Summer internship
    o Use GSP for summer (Clarence Wyatt)
    o Bonner
    o Workstudy job
  • Build Structures
    o Cold frames
    o Shade house
    o Fence

Ideas:

  • Set up the garden as a CSA to students
  • does Cowan use the most?
  • Permaculture
  • Organic—work towards
  • Companion planting
  • Are we selling produce to students? Is it free?
    o Supermarket free sampling for students and faculty
  • Putting signs in Cowan to advertise food produced on campus
Funding:

- Become a campus organization?

Safety:

- How do we deal with Cowan?
- Can we guarantee safety and health of food?
  - Insurance/liability

Things to do first:

1. Talk to Cowan, find out how we can get our produce into Cowan (Kenny & Josh)
   a. Check out Berea College
2. Check out plants
   a. What will be most used
   b. What yields the most
   c. What to plant during the school year
   d.
3. Garden workers (Catherine & Elizabeth)
   a. Contact GSP
   b. School year
   c. Summer
   d. Fall
   e. Breaks
   f. Worker accountability
4. General Garden Structure (Colin and Carol)
   a. Access to basic tools
   b. Soil sampling—Dr. Lubbers, county extension services
   c. Heirloom plants
   d. Organic seeds/seedlings
5. Education of workers and larger student body
   a. Orientation program for volunteers
   b. Onsite manual and record of the garden
      i. Garden map
      ii. Tools
      iii. Cookbook
6. Garden PR (Maria, Colin)
   a. Cookbook
   b. Campus involvement
      i. Bonner
      ii. Greeks
      iii. CARE
   c. Cento
   d. Front and Centre News
   e. Webstories
   f. 

Things to think about for next time: Name, Mission Statement, Slogan, your respective area of investigation