

Radford University
Sustainability Steering Committee
Minutes – January 21, 2010

Present: Dennis Grady, Chair; John Albano; Steven Beach; Don Bowman; Bill Dalton; Anne Pascucci; Richard Roth; Roy Saville; Gabrielle Silvers; Julio Stephens; Debra Templeton; Mark Wagstaff. **Guest:** Jo Ann Alger **Recorder:** Sandra Steele

Welcome:

Dennis Grady welcomed everyone. Jo Ann Alger, Building Automation Engineer, was introduced. Jo Ann works for Maintenance and Operations for Radford University. She was invited to the meeting in follow-up to Measurement Working Group and Steering Committee discussions about Radford University's carbon usage.

Anne Pascucci discussed a Governor's commitment similar to the President's Climate Commitment. The Governor's commitment involves drilling for offshore natural gas, renewable energy and energy conservation efforts, etc. Only 13 other governors have signed similar commitments.

Presentation: Campus Electricity Use – Jo Ann Alger, Building Automation Engineer

Jo Ann Alger presented, "What is kW and kWh?" Discussion followed.

ACTION ITEM: Jo Ann will provide data for the Measurement Working Group of kW hour usage during the extended campus shut down period (December – January) to be used as a baseline.

Minutes:

Minutes from the previous steering committee meeting (November 19, 2009) were approved as presented.

Report from Julio Stephens – Sustainability Coordinator:

Julio Stephens reported that the President's Climate Commitment Implementation Profile is due on March 15, 2010. The report will include general information about the University and seven potential implementation steps to be met. Radford University has already met four of the seven steps. The completed survey will be sent to AASHE. The Green Gas Inventory is due on January 15, 2011. A Climate Action Plan is due January 15, 2012 with progress being reported every two years.

There was some discussion about the collection of transportation data for faculty, staff, and students. Debra Templeton suggested looking at how to measure commuter data. Richard Roth suggested using some Geography student groups and survey a random sample. Some data may be obtained from transportation data in a Master Plans Study done previously on campus.

Julio Stephens discussed a new cooperative initiative in the New River Valley, “Go Green NRV”. The initiative involves counties such as Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, Montgomery County, Blacksburg, etc. The group is still forming and has a checklist of things completed and things to do within the next year. Julio was asked to serve on a steering committee with this community building initiative. RU is evaluating whether or not to participate.

The Princeton Review Survey will be submitted by February 1, 2010. Kathy Jordan’s office provided information about green jobs.

ACTION ITEM: Review the Princeton Review Report at the February meeting if available.

Working Group Reports:

Curriculum – Chair, Mark Wagstaff

The working group met the end of last semester and established two sub-groups choosing two projects to research and put together proposals for sustainability curricula. The working groups will work with New Student Programs and University 100 to roll these proposals into the undergraduate curriculum. The group is also considering developing a certificate program in sustainability. The Curriculum Working Group plans to meet again soon.

Investments – Chair, Steve Beach

The working group has been talking with the Foundation and Board of Visitors, and making progress on the report card for the Princeton Review. Funding for sustainable investments has been discussed, e.g., identifying areas to invest and the environmental benefit that technology might play. There have been discussions between the Foundation and Centennial Committee to determine ways to increase student involvement to include management of a green fee initiative.

Student Involvement – Co-Chair, Gabrielle Silvers and Angela Ward

Angela Ward was not present but Dennis Grady reported that the working group met. Gabrielle Silvers gave a report about a student initiative, “RU Green Enough”. There are no real costs for the campaign but some funds are available. The main goals for this initiative are; 1) Educate students and promote awareness of sustainability; 2) Establish a student green fee by getting it on the Spring SGA ballot and on tickets of those running for office; 3) Establishing a green honor code and a marketing/publicity campaign to solicit green fee pledges with an initial goal of collecting 500. The Environmental Club will vote on this at the next meeting; 4) Make a list of what students are already doing towards sustainability efforts, and hold a student forum in March to gather information. Gabrielle asked if there might be an award established for the most sustainable chapter.

Gabrielle reported that Recycle Mania efforts are continuing. She sees Earth Day on April 22nd as an opportunity to celebrate what students are doing, a chance to interact,

educate, and promote awareness. If SGA elections are held before then it would also be an opportunity to work with the Centennial Committee to promote the green honor code/fee initiative

ACTION ITEMS: Dennis Grady will touch base with Michael Marion, Dean of Students, regarding the development of a most sustainable chapter award. Gabrielle Silvers will meet with Randi Lyn Randall and Matt Clem, Vice President and President of SGA respectively, and work with Don Bowman to develop communication to promote the green honor code/fee. Gabrielle will bring the green honor code to the Sustainability Steering Committee for review and suggestions.

Technology – Chair, John Albano

John Albano reported a 50% decrease in computer lab printing during the month of December compared to the same time last year.

ACTION ITEM: John Albano will work with Don Bowman to equate the savings in the number of trees for reporting and communication efforts.

New Construction and Renovations – Chair, Roy Saville

Roy Saville reported that the working group has found that the LEED process is massive. It's been difficult for the working group to establish a component to tackle, e.g., building specification has sixteen components. This semester the working group will try to narrow down and screen what may be applicable for Radford University.

Food Services – Chair, Bill Dalton

Bill Dalton reported a savings of 500 take out containers a day. Dennis Grady suggested inviting Ben Southard to return and speak to the steering committee.

ACTION ITEM: Bill Dalton will invite Ben Southard to speak at the next meeting proposed during the last week of February.

Grounds/Habitat – Co-chair, Rick Roth

Rick Roth reported that he, Julio Stephens, and Jorge Coartney talked and established storm water as a focus for the working group.

Public Awareness – Chair, Don Bowman

Don Bowman asked working groups to send him information pertaining to sustainability for communication purposes. Don asked Dennis Grady if he had heard anything from the *Green Business Quarterly*. Dennis Grady had not. Don Bowman asked the steering committee to revisit the “You Have the Ability!” campaign which began in August to make sure things are current. Fresh ideas include the reduction in printing in the computer labs, commuting, etc. Don asked when the next steering committee annual report would be available and Dennis Grady replied, “Probably sometime in the fall.”

Measurement – Chair, Debra Templeton

Debra Templeton reported that the working group is continuing to work on defining what to measure and collecting data. Debra asked how pervasive green jobs are, and suggested that Kathy Jordan from Career Services be involved with the steering committee.

ACTION ITEMS: Debra Templeton will send the steering committee information about the commuting impact on RU carbon footprint. Dennis Grady will extend an invitation to Kathy Jordan to join the steering committee.

Transportation – Julio Stephens

Julio Stephens reported in the absence of Jorge Coartney. The working group met and discussed car pooling and car sharing, and is working to develop a bike/ramp map. Richard Roth suggested using some of his students in group projects to work on this and other potential sustainability projects. He recommended giving consideration to increased safety awareness as bikes are utilized more.

Other:

There was a suggestion that the Sustainability Steering Committee receive information in the University Master Plan for the purpose of sustainability efforts research, planning, and development.

ACTION ITEM: Roy Saville will present the PowerPoint presentation available on the Facilities Planning and Construction website at the March steering committee meeting.

There was a question about the status of a community transit system. A suggestion was made that there may be an update after the next Radford City Council meeting to identify potential routes with Radford University representation present.

There was a suggestion to invite guest speakers to each meeting to talk about sustainability measures taken as suggested at the August 2009 meeting, e.g., businesses, Joel Salatin a local farmer and lecturer from Staunton, etc.

The next meeting will be held in February 2010. Dennis Grady will poll steering committee members with suggested dates and times for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:50 am.