

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

January 28, 2009

Voting Members Present: Kevin Clement, Brian Leonhardi, Mary Nere, Louis Schwartzkopf, Cathy Colby, Kim Rademaker, Robert McGinn, Ryan Ihrke, Murtaza Rajabali

Voting Members Absent: Paul Corcoran, Steve Ardolf, Olja Susilovic, Laura Hanson, Monika Antonelli, Alice Laukkonen, Gary Urban

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Desired accomplishments of committee in developing Mission Statement

Life Cycle Analysis-just being green does not mean it is cost effective or even being bio does not mean it is the best way to save the earth. We should begin by publicizing the things we have done in the past to show the university is being proactive and is doing the right thing. We used to burn #6 fuel oil, it was one of the dirtiest fuels, and we now burn #2. We have cut the amount of pollution in half. We produce 11 tons of nitric oxide now and we used to produce 45-46 tons. We need to publicize and educate the university.

Sustainability is not just green. It is economic sustainability and incorporating our natural resources.

Cost benefit is important but we also need to reduce the university's carbon footprint.

Focus on the university and the community. Increase environmental awareness through education because we are a university and an outreach to achieve an environmentally sustainable future.

Education could be done electronically at the university. Goals could be publicized. Reducing the university's carbon footprint could be a goal.

The education component is "lead by example to the community".

There is a need to be concerned about waste, such as styrofoam cups and power.

There could be simple steps to reduce this and then share it with people. There is more to this than cosmetic changes.

There are too many chemicals in our soil and water. This could be worked on university wide.

Work with Facilities Management to see what the current practice is and what is feasible to offset the costs.

Introduction and Mission Statement: Furnish recommendations and opportunities for our university, Minnesota State University Mankato, to effectively work towards an environmentally friendly and sustainable university and local community.

New Business

Presidents Climate Commitment <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/> This was given to the President to read. Hopefully he has read this and is expecting us to bring this up. One thing I thought was really positive was that if the President does sign this it will make our work a lot easier. If he signs this it will show he is committed to Environmental Sustainability and will help work towards our goals, the goals the committee comes up with. He will need someone to develop it. If the President does sign this he will have to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible. #1-Within two months of signing this document, he will have to create institutional structures to guide the development and

implementation of the plan. One of those would be the Environmental Committee. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions. Also, in two years of signing this there must be an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral which would include target dates for achieving climate neutrality, interim targets for goals and actions and actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students. Also actions to expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality and mechanisms for tracking progress on goals and actions.

These plans could take many years. It is not forcing the university but rather doing this whenever possible. There are four small research wind turbines going up on campus.

#2-Initiate two or more of the following tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed: 1) Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent. MSU did not go for LEED standards but we have state standards. 2) Adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist. 3) Establish a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution. 4) Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution. 5) Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources. 6) Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested. 7) Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national Recycle Mania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste.

MSU does belong to Wastewise, a MnSCU organization sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. We are using them to look at our waste on campus.

This committee could identify some costs associated with this and help identify different funding sources.

#3 Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

Energy Management Letter

Gary Urban has formulated a energy management draft. This is different ways departments on campus can save energy. We can tweak this or edit it and send it out to departments on what they should be doing. Hopefully this will help energy consumption throughout the campus. (to be discussed next meeting).

Library Services movie and panel discussion

Library Services will be presenting two showings of Leonardo di Caprio's movie *The 11th Hour*. It is a 90 minute film and will be followed by a 30 minute panel discussion. The movie will be shown at 2:00 and 6:00 PM. in Ostrander Auditorium. The theme of the movie is

Announcements

Agenda Items for next meeting

Vice President Rajabali-Presidents Climate Commitment . Energy Management draft

Robb McGinn-Will present information on Wastewise review at next meeting

Ryan Ihrke-Will present research on sustainability funds at different colleges such as Green Fees and energy savings going back into fund

Next Meeting Date February 11, 2009 CSU 202

