

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

February 25, 2009

Voting Members Present: Paul Corcoran, Kevin Clement, Brian Leonhardi, Olja Susilovic, Monika Antonelli, Louis Schwartzkopf, Samuel Steiger, Mary Nere, Kim Rademaker, Gary Urban, Robert McGinn, Ryan Ihrke, Murtaza Rajabali

Voting Members Absent: Cathy Colby, Steve Ardolf, Laura Hanson, Alice Laukkonen

Open Forum

Movie 11th Hour. There were only about 30 in the 2:00 showing but the 6:00 had 200 or more. It went very well. The panel did a good job. It was a very good film.

Jeff Brand-Minnesota Environmental Partnership –(handouts) This organization is really pushing university president's climate commitment. They want schools to sign on to the President's Climate Commitment. He said they would lend support in efforts to get North Mankato and St. Peter to sign on to the Mayors Climate Change. Mankato has signed on to this.

Approval of Agenda Agenda approved without objection

New Business

Sustainable Vision Document-main author, Kevin Clement. This is a plan of action document of what the university needs to do in the future.

Kevin Clement-Clean Air was started by the University of New Hampshire. What they have produced is a carbon calculator. The carbon calculator adds up all the emissions. It is an extensive document and the person that does it will have to have some inside knowledge of what the expenditures are and what we actually have on campus in terms of facilities equipment and things like that.

Discussion

There are a number of protocols out there to arrive at what a carbon number really is. Each program must use a certain protocol like a car driving x miles equates to.... Minnesota MPCA & Excel energy is signed on to that protocol and other state agencies. The Climate Registry wants everyone to say this is the way we are going to do it.

Most of the President's Climate Commitment uses calculator. It is a useful utility and it is free of charge.

The idea behind the calculator is to have a graduate assistant actually do all the work using the calculator.

Resource Page should be added with the direct links posted on web site to educate people on recycling and carbon footprints. There should be a cover sheet because it may be clear to us what the links are but others may not know.

If we sign this, do we have the resources to make it happen? If we do this you have to do what they ask. Do we have the authority or resources to make it happen?

Do we have deadlines? The electrical requirement would have to be reduced by 15%. E credits go for about \$29.00 a kilogram. That is about \$60,000 a year to MSU. That would hit us the first year, so there would be a little financial commitment there.

If you look at Part B it says hire a full-time sustainable coordinator. The coordinator would identify all sustainable grants available for the university. The idea is to be self-sustainable. We don't want money coming from the university or the students.

It would be necessary to identify grants and stimulus money to get it from or would the campus be willing to put money into this project? We don't know where the President stands on this. He might be willing to say he could make this a strategic priority. Times are tight we don't know if that is the case.

Establish an MSU Green fund-an optional fee presented to all faculty and staff.

Universities Sustainability Program at the Department of Education-Passed in 2008 the Higher Education Opportunity Act-this authorized a university sustainability program at the Dept. of Education to offer competitive grants to institutions of higher education to develop and implement and evaluate sustainability curriculum and academic programs.

Move that we form a subcommittee to examine more closely what our commitments would be under the Presidents Climate Commitment and report back. Louis Schwartzkopf, Murtaza Rajabali, Ryan Ihrke.
Subcommittee: Monika Antonelli, Kevin Clement.

Document current institutional policies which promote sustainability (e.g., Energy Management letter, Energy Star building practices, boiler replacement, biofuel research, Water Resources Center, mass transportation for students. Identify, publicize and promote "sustainability" based curriculum across all departments.

The plan is to pass the letter on to the President and find out the steps he wants to take. We need to order it in the order we want it to play out.

One thing talked about for a number of years and should be put in the letter is the wind turbine project. It came back not economically feasible but we could share the extensive study.

Having our goal very clear is important. Are there small items we could do in the next year?
Turning off lights in your office, common sense things, double sided coping, reuse of paper for draft coping etc.

Add- the Coordinator would access cost saving or environmental sustainable initiatives across campus under Part 3. #5 could address those items.

We will vote on this 3/11. You can make changes then and we will have a presentation on our findings at that time.

Subcommittee- identify funding opportunities intended to enhance environmental sustainability at the institutional level. Monika Antonelli, Kevin Clement

Table Energy Management Letter. ITS is coming up with their own detailed recommendations. We can merge that with our document.

Announcements

Finishing up installation of a new campus utility metering system which will be operational in April. This will assist us on whether our efforts are doing any good. Currently missing baseline data. There is not funding for the new one until the old one is broke. We do have some old baseline data we could go forward with. Baseline data is one of the requirements of this climate commitment. We will be getting good data starting in April. They ask us to reduce by percentage. We have done a lot of the easy stuff like getting to high efficiency lightening, we have a central plant instead of each building having their own plant which is a tremendous saver in emissions because it is run primarily on natural gas.

Next Meeting Date March 11, 2009 CSU 202

