

## Sustainability Committee Minutes

3 March 2010, 8:30 am

Sharples Dining Hall Room 4

Attending: Nicole Lewis, Linda MacDougall, Debra Kardon-Brown, Nadine Kolowrat, Carr Everbach, Eric Burgy, Camille Robertson, Mark Davis, Eric Wagner

Carr began by reminding the group that Andrea Packard, List Gallery director, is coming the meeting right after spring break to speak about glossy mailings and other issues. The GHG group from Temple will also be presenting their methodology and preliminary results for the College's carbon output in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

There was discussion of possible guidelines from SusCom for glossy print production by departments, such as use of recycled or FSC-certified paper and soy-based ink. We should discuss this issue with Nancy Nicely and Jeff Lott of Communications office and Publications office, respectively, and will invite them to a future SusCom meeting. Swarthmore College produces a glossy donor report, and there is a discussion of print vs. online. Online glossies may not be as effective as hardcopy, but there may be ways to improve the web-based version: flip on the screen rather than scroll down the page. More generally, SusCom should investigate more sustainable ways of getting people's attention, and make recommendations accordingly. Nicole suggested an online magazine that is good example of a layout (<http://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/26870/47726/pub/index.html>).

The discussion then turned to the recycling stickers produced by Colin Purrington, and led to a discussion of how contaminated can clean paper/plastic/cans be before the load is rejected. Carr described following a recycling truck to the transfer station, and it was agreed that this might make a nice field trip for SusCom members. Can we invite a PR person from the recycling hauler or the transfer station to visit a SusCom meeting?

Jack Clark is the College's recycling hauler, and requires paper/cardboard be separate from plastics and from metals. Why is it necessary to separate these, if single-stream recycling is the norm for the adjacent municipalities? Need to ask Director of Grounds Jeff Jabco, or Arboretum director Claire Sawyers.

A discussion followed of Pizza box composting, which effort has stalled. The concerns have been for pests/odor, but it was agreed to start with 1/day or 7/week and observe how they degrade in the regular compost piles.

Mark Davis broached the idea of sustainability suggestions from SusCom in a "Did you know?" format on the SusCom website. Previous efforts by Ralph, Linda, and Camille resulted in 1.5 hours of work on 4 Greenbox questions. Possibly put FAQs on Greenbox link to save repeating responses? The SusCom website should also remind the public of the reusable mugs availability, discount, and signs posted at the coffee bars.

Mark reiterated the possibility of a "hot topics" as digest item once in a while. Since students rarely read the digest, an announcement could be posted on the student

Dashboard. Camille will investigate this method. A brief discussion followed about the balance between telling people what they already know and reminding them of facts that may have eluded their notice. Eric Wagner suggested posting a list of hot topics once a month, say, on a first Tuesday. There was general agreement with this suggestion.

Eric reported on his meeting with 3 students and Tom Narkin to discuss recycling of towels and the greening of the athletics facilities more generally. Earthlust will undertake research to find out whether replacing paper towels is better than laundering cloth ones. They will also try to answer whether paper towels with squirt bottle stuff on them are recyclable or compostable. Earthlust will also survey where recycle bins are and aren't. Eric said that a better job of recycling needs to be done during home events. Have recycling bins supplied by folks who run concession stands?

Eric suggested the idea of a Student Athlete Advisory committee: someone from every team is appointed to make sure bottles from the team are recycled after away games, road trips.

There was a discussion of recycling bins and the importance of having triplets (trash, recycling paper/cardboard, recycling plastic/cans) and good signage, with proper holes in the lid of each kind of recycling bin. Nadine was asked if there were grant money for this, but she replied: not really, a well-endowed school should fund its own recycling bins. Right now, individual departments are buying trashcans in all different sizes and it would help boost recycling totals to standardize the bins. This is a possible role for Suscom. We could do two buildings at a time, starting with the Lang Center.

Linda reported statistics on the reduction in water bottles in bagged lunches: previously we used to buy 150 cases/week (24 bottles/case) for a total of 3600 bottles/week. Now we are buying 10 cases every 2 weeks, for a total of 120 bottles/week. Nadine suggested publicizing this fact for GreenMarch, along with reminders not to contaminate the recycling bins. Linda noted that as packout/barbeque season approaches, she hopes to provide gallon water containers rather than many smaller bottles of water.

The meeting adjourned around 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr Everbach