

Meeting notes – South Sustainability Meeting – 11/2/2016

Present: Christa Colouzis, Tim Walsh, Alison Pugh, Kali Kuwada, Adam Mauer, Monica Lundberg, Zari Akkuly, Liz Duarte, Janet Kapp.

Meeting called to order, Introductions were done.

A major initiative mentioned previously is to improve recycling and compost rates at South. Several things may be negatively impacting our current levels of compliance.

Poor signage, mismatched / inconsistent containers / lack of signs and education / lack of peer pressure.

There appeared to be consensus that improving recycling / composting is something the committee wants to work on. Most agreed that figuring out where we are currently is a great first step. Adam suggested bringing in our waste hauler (believed to be Waste Management) to oversee and help organize our waste characterization. The more public and well-known the 'dumpster dive' is, the more South will raise awareness on campus about waste.

Christa and Zari are willing to help with waste audit, it is expected that they will need at least 8 volunteers from the campus and some equipment (like tables).

It was felt that a great deal of improvement could be attained by standardizing the containers, improving the signage, and doing some advertising/ psychological 'nudging'

There was also interest shown from Zari to compete in Recyclemania (Feb.-March)

Another project with much support by the committee was reducing/ eliminating plastic bottle sales on campus. Christa will speak to James about getting plastic bottles out of the vending machines and to Danica about the bookstore. Janet will talk to Bob Glatt about the cafeteria and to Bob Sullivan about water offered at events.

A part of this campaign brought up that we need to pursue putting a webpage up about sustainability to advertise what we already have at South...such as the EV charging stations (with a map) the location of the water bottle filling stations (map), bike racks (map), and the site of our (coming) HORSE – the biodigester that turns compost into energy. Also, for the buildings that have LEED status, a description of what was done to make those buildings sustainable. For the maps, it was suggested that there could be a student contest to develop the best map and have a prize...and that map would be used on the website. Christa will email Christian Clemmenson about getting a sustainability web page for our minutes, membership, maps etc.

Other things that could go on the website are our current water, natural gas and electricity use and what those utilities cost the college monthly or annually. We could also highlight any reductions we have had in the past few years. There are also some stormwater management projects we could write up to put on the website.

A goal of the committee is to shift the culture at South to embrace/ improve sustainability.

The committee seemed in favor of inviting those on campus who make decisions such as plastic water bottles over pitchers of water (Bob Sullivan) and plastic bottles vs cans in the vending machines (James Lewis) to come speak to the committee and hear the recommendations that the committee has for incorporating more sustainability.

How sustainable is our new construction? All new construction has to be LEED silver by state law. Achieving higher than LEED silver would cost quite a bit more. The committee could perhaps get involved in design of the new wellness center and help steer toward sustainable features that are preferred. Anyone wishing to attend design meetings for the new wellness center should let Christa know so she can get them invited to the planning meetings.

The committee did not seem to feel the need for a strict charter, but would like to increase meeting times to monthly meetings near the beginning of each month. Wednesday early afternoons appear to work well (at least for those who attended this meeting).

Next meeting: Wednesday, DEC 7 1-2 pm in RS 30.