

MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, January 26, 2010
3:30, STC Board Room

Present: Joe Brandon, Susan Briggs, Bob Campbell, Jim Efta, Chris Guttenberg, Cathi Love, Dorothy Seymour, Tom Wagenknecht
Guest: Linda Lyon

Absent: Heather Brooks, Brett Christian, Beth Davis, Ricki Jones, Jack Kirkley, Mark Krank, Jeff Nelson

Carbon Reduction Plan

The UMW Carbon Reduction Plan is located on the 'N:' drive, click on the "Sustainability" folder. It is not yet formally approved by the Chancellor. Jim asked the committee members to look at this report and get feedback to him. When finalized, we will look at it again, then send it as a recommendation to the Chancellor. Once approved we will re-up it to the website to ACUPCC.

Gardening/Composting Project

Professor Linda Lyon is working on a grant application from the "Building Rural Communities Program" for a proposed community garden/ composting project. There is currently a community garden at the fairgrounds, but it isn't very large, and this proposal would place a second site on the UMW campus on the northeast corner of campus (past Clark Hall). Support for this project includes student groups, Barrett Hospital dietician, UMW Dining Services, and community members. The garden has to be organic, with no chemicals. Chris is planning to have his IT class build raised beds, which would allow handicapped people to participate in the garden. The beds would be movable rather than permanent structures. The plan is to build a cistern to collect and provide water. Susan noted (but was incorrect) that there is a well on the site they are considering. A \$30 membership fee would be charged to rent a space.

Questions

- Security problems—people stealing the produce?
- Storage shed to lock some things up
- Liability if someone gets hurt
- Parking is limited
- Check covenants
- Fee collection—who would be responsible?
- How would the fees be used?

This proposal was approved and will be forwarded next to the Campus Development Committee.

Renewable Energy Demonstration Site

Chris displayed a scale model for a renewable energy demonstration project (developed from a Northwestern Energy grant awarded to him). He is proposing that the demonstration project be located on the southwest corner of campus, between Sparky's and the Art Gallery wing of Main Hall. The demo would use solar and wind power to generate 1,000 watts of power that would run the project's own lights. The purpose of the demo is to educate people on the merits of solar and wind generated power. The committee approved this proposal and it will be forwarded next to the Campus Development Committee.

Energy Reduction Campaign

Some student groups are actively working on energy reduction on campus. To assist in this campaign, it was suggested that posters be distributed asking people to shut down their computers and monitors overnight, turn off lights/televisions/stereos, etc., in unoccupied rooms, be aware that weekend and night setbacks on heat will mean that the first work day after the weekend will be a bit cooler until the heat comes up so dress accordingly. Students are encouraged to utilize kitchens located in the residence halls instead of bringing microwaves and refrigerators for their rooms. We hope to put any dollars saved by reducing energy costs back into the budget, which could keep from having to make cuts elsewhere. Jim and Tom will talk to Student Senate about them taking the lead on this campaign.

Dr. Lyon noted that Earth Hour (turn off all electrical appliances and lights for one hour around the world) and Earth Day will be held again in March. In April, the Environmental Club will be participating in Club Week. Perhaps someone from this committee would talk at either or both of these events about what this campus does. Susan said that we will not be operating air conditioning in Main Hall, although pipes will be installed for that possibility in the future.

Next meeting: To be determined