

UA Sustainability Committee

April 12, 2010 Meeting

Present: Fred Cowett, Frank DiSalvo, Fil Eden, Marty Hatch, Linda Croll Howell, Dan Roth, Zellman Warhaft

ACTION ITEMS:

- The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2010 at 12:15 pm.
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AGENDA:

I. Presentation by Randy Lacey re: Cornell as climate leader, building standards as part of CAP, and Cornell's CAP relative to other schools

- CAP is based on carbon reduction goals, but sustainability is a much broader topic.
- Emissions inventory (buildings): electricity accounts for 27%, on-site combustion for 56%.
- CAPs vary school to school; there is no single model.
- Cornell CAP (buildings): green development + energy conservation.
- Green development goal: reduce energy through renovation and better use of what is built.
 - Build less, build efficiently, and build smaller.
 - Use existing space more efficiently and possibly revise space use standards (are they bigger than they need to be).
 - Flex hours: sharing space and using space more efficiently.
 - Stanford example: space use fees and space charge by department.
- Facilities Department is increasingly willing to impact people in order to make changes.
 - Major hurdle: getting support from people for changes.
- Building energy use intensity:
 - BTU/ft²/yr
 - Baseline: 277k
 - Target (near term, new buildings): 170k
- LEED -> ASHRAE: energy modeling
 - Pass/fail tool with cost as common denominator, but never meant to be an energy modeling tool.
 - Metric is cost, not BTUs; responsive to cheaper source of energy and not necessarily more efficient use.
- Cornell employs both building energy use intensity (BTU/ft²/yr) and ASHRAE as metrics.
- Energy conservation provides the biggest bang for the buck and the largest opportunities.
- Revolving loan fund: budget process still underway; no news on fund status until budget conclusion.
 - Need for change in budget model.
 - Harvard model: revolving loan fund separate from centralized budget and therefore more insulated from budget process and economic downturn.
 - Cornell: energy conservation fund centralized and therefore crashed when overarching funding and budget crashed.
 - Separate revolving loan fund would have been better protected, but not yet created.

II. Welcome to Linda Croll Howell

- Linda has replaced Jeanine Crouse as the Employee Assembly representative to the Sustainability Committee.

III. Addition of GPSA Members to UA Sustainability Committee

- The UA has added two GPSA members to the Sustainability Committee on an as needed basis to accommodate special interest in sustainability among graduate students.

IV. Brief Discussion Regarding the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Leasing of Land for Exploration and Drilling for Natural Gas in the Marcellus Shale and its' April 22nd Meeting

- Undergraduate representation on the Ad Hoc Committee:
 - A representative from Kyoto Now has been added to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee as a non-voting member.
- The Sustainability Committee briefly discussed whether to submit recommendations concerning guidelines as requested by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.
- Sustainability Committee members agreed to think about submitting a statement by April 19th that could be endorsed by the entire committee.