

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)
MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2022

Present: Apple Alvarez '24, Beth Brucker Kane, Megan Buchanan, Darren Drabek, Grace Geurin '24, Jen Natyzak, Tara.. Note

o IPPC

brief introductions.

College Diversity and Inclusion statement, with participation.

Report for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022 and FY22, distinctive from the others in that it reporting methodologies

- g. Currently +9% increase in electricity use per student (goal maintain, 0%)
10% decrease in electricity use per square foot (goal maintain, 0% year 2000
baseline)
- h.

- c. Motion passed unanimously to approve the Transportation Memo and advance it to leadership.
5. Sustainable Landscape Management Plan
- a. This combines both the ambitions on stormwater and landscaping from the Campus Master Planning Process with the Campus Sustainability Goal on land management planning.
 - b. Potential cost is 450K or higher if the scopes is expanded to include other elements of the CMP.
 - c. Megan notes that the zones around Sports Center by the pond are indeed used for parking for any and all big events. Clinton Rd is a dense site too for side parking. Landscaping will need to consider this parking issue.
 - d. Mark asks who is pushing forth the Campus Master Plan. The process is still being worked out with individual projects being distributed as appropriate.
 - e. Beth notes that this may be a project to seek funding from the Presidents' Discretionary Fund.
 - f. Motion set by Darren, seconded by Beth. A vote of support for the idea of an expert-developed Sustainable Landscape Management Plan was unanimously passed.
6. A Climate Commitment
- a. Second Nature developed this Climate Leadership Network with options for commitments 1) carbon (focused on climate neutrality), 2) resilience (focused on adaptation and risk), and 3) climate (neutrality and resilience). Tarah recommends the Carbon commitment, using this as a lever for college action, structural and operational accountability, and engagement and education potential.
 - b. Tarah notes it often does not go to the board of trustees, says Second Nature.
 - c. Beth suggests it would be interesting to include endowments in the aspirant presentation. Mark suggests endowment per student as a unit to include.
 - d. Mark asks if Bates, Colby, and Bowdoin worked together to attain the carbon goals.
 - e. Darren notes that few are committed to climate/resilience
 - f. Apple notes that the Break Free from Plastic folks are also presenting a commitment to President Conner and we may want to think about the various asks being made of leadership.
7. Other Business
- a. None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Meeting Action

1. Unanimous support to endorse the Transportation Memo
2. Unanimous vote in support of the idea of advancing an expert-developed Sustainable Landscape Management Plan

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)

Apple asked about alternatives or vendors to reach out to. Tarah mentioned some of vendors and can open those conversations. Where do we take it and opportunity to adjust?

Rik asked what Dining Services could do to share orders with RPI or Union? Might help boost ability to buy minimums. Even other institutions with food services to share sources.

Energy Goal 1: 60% of our electricity from renewable sources (actual 31%)

Water Consumption (not in current plan). Rik asked if we know where water is used on campus. Dan reminded us we have few isolated meters for water and gas. Only one water meter but several gas meters. Tarah recently visited meters with a contractor to see how we could make submeters for natural gas. Trying to estimate the costs of adding more submeters.

Goals (Progress). Tarah created a new graphic to illustrate progress and our status for each goal. A summary snapshot of what and how we are doing.

Mark asked about Harder demolition and how 50% waste was diverted. Mark thought we had done better than that. Dan cited that CIS was our first project under this policy.

Motion for CSS to endorse the combined Rik moves, Mark seconds. No discussion. Motion carries.

3. Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy

March 2021 adopted by IPP. Key concept is the need for an integrated process.

Darren asked if existing buildings can be brought up to LEED certification. Yes, and Old Dana is a recent campus example.

LEED v4- New Construction. Tarah and Dan and Dean Phillips met with 11 members of design and build team to discuss the project.

Would be good for committee to read up on LEED before we meet with design team on December 9. What is important to you as individual and to the institution and what should be taken into consideration on the project.

4. Health and Wellness, Fitness and Athletics Project Update

Dan presented an overview of the project. Design team has our construction policy. Next step is for us to meet with and engage the team.

Greenberg is set to move December 17th inspection of site December 21st. The old Greenberg building to undergo demolition during winter break.

New lighting on 8 new tennis courts will be LED.

Rik asked if new wells need to be drilled for geothermal. Dan says it is under review if the same bores can be used. Hopefully they can.

Space on campus that will open up as a result primarily in residential spaces.

Beth asked if there is room for a campus hockey rink. Dan replied, yes. Technically there is room but it is tight. Dan also said that the Campus Master Plan explores other potential sites on campus that could be used for a rink.

5. Institutional Sustainability Policies- Current and Potential

Policies, Plans/Guidelines were delivered and discussed.

Purchasing policy is one to potentially look at this year. Existing policy has categories: paper, IT/electronics, fleet, and cleaning products. Control is key part of discussion. Discussion of WB Mason and other vendors in relation to supply chain issues: availability, substitutions.

Mark suggested that there should be set timelines when policies are reviewed, for instance every couple of years.

Other plans/guidelines to consider:

City idling policy, maybe we should have a campus policy.

It has been observed that many people picking up and dropping off children at the ECC in Palamountain lot let cars idle, sometimes excessively.

Building temp guidelines. DQ ¶ W U H D O O \ K D Y H P X F K W H H W K L Q W K H S

Tree Care Plan: Jen is taking the lead on some of this. Focus on native plants/trees.

Cold water clothes washing? Dan said res halls are supposed to be only piped for cold water washing.

Travel policies.

Apple reported a meeting with SGA Committee on Life; discussed student voices and desire for help getting students around campus and around area with vehicles. Accessibility and access to external locations. Dan reported that a meeting with SGA the other day, many comments came up about accessibility around the new location of health and wellness.

Transportation memo (Glen Mitchell and Clinton), moving forward. Presented to IPPC today, by Tarah.

7. Other Business

EV Stations 9 new EV charging stations will be added by ChargeSmart at no cost to the

2. Committee Questions and Discussion with Consultants

- a. Mark asks if the current points are too conservative. Consultants note that this is very doable. 50+ points were presented, stretch though some are likely to be met.
- b. Geothermal is not included as renewable energy item by USGBC, but may be an innovation point since Skidmore uses dist geob.
- c. Rik asks if a green roof is possible. Consultants note solar is more achievable than green roof. The Green Roof may not help on LEED checklist but may be innovation point. Green roofs are relatively expensive the thicker they are the more expensive. They work well for cooling stormwater. They work on sloped rooves too just challenging and expensive.
- d. Solar is not currently in the project but 20% of E X L O G L Q J could be met by rooftopsolar. Inflation Reduction Act offers rebates on rooftop solar.
 - i. Dance building could be an option but needs to be sited at Project there Z R X O G Q J W D S S O J W R (W K D W I E X L O G L Q J
- e. Rik asks about LEED Gold possibility. Consultant says easiest way to achieve gold is to consider solar on the building. Solar is a regional priority. If 10% of building usage is offset, it increases energy and atmosphere credits and impacts carbon offsets and green credits purchasing. Next is to look into lifecycle cost analysis related to embodied carbon from materials is a major study. Also consider indoor air quality monitors and display it publicly.
 - i. This may not be attainable with current budget. These stretch points come at a premium. The goal is to be advantageous.
- f. Process ahead the scorecard and detailed documentation will be submitted to USBGC. This documentation is a preliminary design submittal which is when 75% Construction Documents are completed. The drawings will be reviewed with Skidmore with final designs finalized and submitted again to USGBC before construction begins. At the end of construction, all construction related credits are submitted.
 - i. For a LEED Platinum project in Albany the approval came out 1 calendar year later.
- g. Tarah notes 7.5 year lifecycle analysis W K L V L V 6 N L G P R U a d i n v o f I L U V W L P the policy. This could include climate, energy, and/or cost.
- h. The consultants need feedback before Dec 19 when they submit final design review.

3. Other business:

- a. Additional discussion and review of the Athletics project presentation and Skidmore building policy
 - i. Acknowledgement and reflection of geothermal use providing direct points in the LEED system. Geothermal uses a lot of electricity.
 - ii. Solar the committee is interested have a basic cost and payback estimate for solar for the project. It would be difficult to incorporate solar based on the current project timeline. Solar from another building would not count towards the project. This would not be grid-tied which would save money and time. L W J V E X L O G L Q J V S H F L I L F

- iii. Building permit due in February.
- iv. Dan notes positive feedback from the consultants on L G P Building V policy. The design team offered to discuss and offer comments as related to WR 6 NLG PRUH ¶ V EX LOG L Q J S R O L F \
- v. Group support to focus on updating the building policy for spring
 - 1. Is there a need to discuss/examine ROI benchmark? ROI has varied on projects from 8-15 years in the past case-by-case.
- b. A carbon neutrality/climate commitment will be a key ongoing institutional focus
- c. Kelley Paton-Ostrander, Assistant Vice President for Financial Planning & Auxiliary Services, will be joining CSS meetings in the spring via Zoom.
- d. Meetings next semester will be hybrid with preferred in-person attendance.
- e. Sustainability is working with Facilities on moving forward a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan
- f. Tarah asks for thoughts and input on projects for the Spring
 - i. Mark would like to update the Building Policy
 - ii.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 13, 2023, 1:30-3:00 pm

Present: Apple Alvarez '24, Beth Brucke-Kane, Megan Buchanan, Darren Drabek, Grace Geurin '24, Jen Natyzak, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowson, Rik Scarce, Carol Schnitzer, Mark Youndt

Absent: Kelly Patton-Ostrander

This meeting was held hybrid, in person and Zoom, and called to order at 1:35pm

Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes– November 18, 2022 and December 9, 2022
 - a. Approved and to be posted on the CSS website

2. Renewable Energy Claims and Green Power

- a. Approved in the 2022 Combined Annual Report due to new information on Skidmore's renewables ownership. First, Skidmore has stopped purchasing bundled Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) 10% of our electricity. This change occurred in the summer of 2021, so no RECs were purchased for Fiscal Year 2022, thus they need to be removed from our renewables claim for 2022. Second, Skidmore has been tracking solar RECs via the New York Generation Attribute Tracking System (NYGATS). Our solar RECs from calendar year 2016 were retired. However, our solar RECs from calendar year 2017-2021 were not retired. Instead, as the RECs were not retired or banked at the end of the trading period, the active RECs were swept in to the pool attributes and became residual mix certificates for NY state. Thus, Skidmore cannot claim these RECs and the FY 2017 through Fiscal Year 2022 claims need to be adjusted so that only RECs for which we retained ownership (and retired) are counted.

- b. Group discussed the distinction of accounting versus generation. Skidmore's solar field generated power but NY state accounted for it, so Skidmore cannot claim the s(c)-1.6 (uni)-7.6 (i)-4.6

- ii. Awaiting PPA evaluation with current electric rates, which are good, but they're likely to increase. Dan's in favor of this option for convenience and maintenance. This approach would have no upfront cost, we would just have an agreement to purchase the electricity over a 20-30-year contract.
- iii. The benefit of moving solar ahead now is that we get the LEED points, and doing it later would have no LEED impact.
 - 1. Megan asks about timing of LEED approval.

b.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 6, 2023, 1:30-3:00 pm

Present: Beth BruckerKane, Megan Buchanan, Darren Drabek, Jen Natyzak, Kelly Patton, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse, Chair, Rik Scarce, Carol Schnitzer, Mark Youndt

Absent: Apple Alvarez '24, Grace Geurin '24

2. There's no part of this policy covering lands and grounds currently. Where do projects under 2 million that are outdoors fall? Consider lighting on fields, consider HVAC overhauls, flooring updates, etc.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 3, 2023, 130-3:00 pm

II large conference room.

1. Minutes for March 6 2023 approved
2. Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy Review Update
 - a. Tarah, Dan, Mark, Paul to meet with Michael and Charley
3. SGA Green Grant Apple Alvarez'24
 - a. Comprehensive Sustainability Office faculty/student activities
 - b. This is to create a designated fund for student initiatives: encourage educational opportunities, promote interdisciplinary projects on campus, and to build on existing projects
 - c. This will start with 10k from SGA.
 - d. Haverford, Oberlin, Vassar, and Middlebury run green fees. Example fund from University of Idaho, funded \$60000 for grass revival, \$2700 drought tolerant grass planting, \$200 hydroponics
 - e. Timeline includes application open August-September, review by Committee, projects chosen and announced in February, starting Feb thru approved timeline.
 - f. This presentation was shared with SGA to anticipate \$10000 for academic year, and it will be voted on with the budget committee to confirm this allocation.
4. 2022 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Tarah Rowe and Forrest Levenson
 - a. Inventory takes place every 3 years
 - b. Scope 1 is on-campus generation such as natural gas for vehicles, scope 2 is purchased electricity
 - i.

- ii. Additional Scope 3 emissions in the 2022 inventory are coming from Fuel and Energy Related Activities (FERA), which was a recent addition to the SIMAP inventory tool
- iii. Comparing the last 3 inventories, the student commuting topic information greatly increased, the past 2 methods including a sample survey from 300

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 1 2023, 1:30-3:00 pm

Present:

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Notes

1. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2023
2. CSS Year in Review Updates

- i. Thanks to Rik for his time on the committee. Christine Page will be new faculty from Business and Ma11.3 f.141 11.04 95M85[e ÜÖ@489.152 Td (i.)TTj /TT2 1 Tf 0 Tc C offsets, and they're pivoting money into the College's fossil free fund. Tarah also talked to Cori Filson about study abroad offsets, Bu(i)nk19 (s)-2.2()10ntstill conversations on adding unbundled RECs through the energy purchasing process. Electricity cost is increasing, which makes renewable projects look more appealing.

2. Sustainability Office Updates

- i. This is our first year with the CDPHP Cycle! Bikes and compost in academic spaces. Hoop House 1

st spring, is going well, plants in the ground, please scare away the rabbits. North Woods boardwalk and bridge are upcoming and ongoing projects for our summer stewardship. Give+Go moveout donation collection will take place this May, volunteers needed. This was our Saratoga Sustainability Fair in partnership with Sustainable Saratoga in April, and brought out 350 attendees with 25+ various organizations in the exhibitor hall.

- ii. We are likely to get funding for submetering for operational energy and cost efficiency. This will create opportunity for engagement, dashboards, and data. Metering for energy and gas.
 1. Megan asks about water metering. Not on radar yet.

- iii. No leads on off campus large scale solar projects ~~Not~~ feasible on current lands. Skidmore would need to work with a contractor to find suitable sites (for purchase or leasing) A third party offered quotes and options for rooftop solar, which was 3 MW on 15 buildings (14-year payback).

requirement. Mark will have data on sustainability courses through registrar's office and curriculum committee.

- b. Grace notes that she's heard positive feedback about work with the Sustainability Office from the student perspective and that folks would be interested in more jobs.
- c. Tarah notes that AASHE STARS reporting is every 3 years generally. It's a tool to inventory and measure operations. Skidmore is due to submit next Spring, and Tarah and Mark are in favor of waiting an extra year (submitting in FY 2025) that there's a full year of academic data.