

HMSC Sustainability Committee

August 22, 2008

Meeting MINUTES

Members Present: Ken Hall, Anjanette Baker, Judy Mullen

Topics Covered at Meeting:

1. Set regular dates for Sustainability Committee meetings and monthly brownbag lunches
2. Brownbag lunch series: Rob Thompson to speak on recycling (September); other possible speakers, topics
3. Transportation needs at HMSC (related to carbon footprint)
4. Other Ideas and Information

1. Regular Dates for Meetings and Brownbags

The Sustainability Committee will meet once a month on a regularly scheduled basis. We'd like to set 9:30am on the first Tuesday of the month as the regular time and will check with other committee members to see if this is an acceptable time slot. By meeting early in the month we can plan topics and speakers for brownbags to be held later in the month--also on Tuesdays-- if possible.

The next meeting, however, will be held on Thursday, September 4th at 9:30am until a regular date is approved by the group and because of the Labor Day Holiday.

2. Brownbag Lunch Speakers / Topics

Lavern Weber contacted Rob Thompson of Thompson's Sanitary Service in Newport about being a speaker at a future brownbag lunch, and Rob agreed. We're going to try to schedule him for Tuesday September 16th, if possible.

We plan to bring questions and examples of items in the gray area on the question of what should or should not go in the recycling bins.

Action: Ken to contact Rob Thompson to confirm date.

The topic of green construction & home improvements ranked high on the survey given to brownbag attendees last May. Previous speaker Robert VanCreveld is a rich resource who can address our interest in green roof design, rainwater catchments and other conservation concerns of homeowners, remodelers and builders.

Action: Anjanette will ask Robert V. if he's willing to do another brownbag--or if a tour of his property would be possible?

Other potential future topics/speakers:

Lincoln County Transit staff- talk at a Brown Bag?

Rideshare/carpool/park and ride: HMSC transportation issues and needs

3. Transportation at HMSC

We agreed that transportation to/from HMSC is an area worth examining from a sustainability perspective. But before we promote one of the carpooling websites or talk to Lincoln County Transit about possible improvements, we need more information about what our current practices are and what HMSC folks actually need when it comes to daily commutes and other travel to/from HMSC.

Action: Anjanette offered to review web-based survey tools for assessing transportation behaviors and needs and will report her findings at the next meeting.

4. Other Ideas and Information

Discussion on ways to promote existing campaigns that address energy efficiency and carbon reduction goals, such as:

- "We Can Solve It" website (<http://www.wecansolveit.org/>): solutions to address climate change crisis
- Federal Green Challenge again, which reminds us we need to gather baseline usage for HMSC energy, transportation, waste and water usage. Ascertaining our current consumption is really the only way we can measure improvement.
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/ECOCOMM.NSF/Federal+Green+Challenge/FedGreen#What%20is%20the%20Challenge%3F>
- Local government initiatives – e.g. Lincoln City mayor has signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (see: Coolcities: Solving Global Warming One City at a time <http://coolcities.us/state.php?state=OR>; Lincoln County government has done the same, by signing on to "Cool Counties"
- Ken noted that certain utility customers (e.g. Pacific Power in Lincoln City) are eligible for free home energy audits.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 4, 2008

Anjanette's response:

Nicely done! The only suggestion I have is to incorporate some of the text of Devon's email regarding energy audits, which I have included below (devin.r.brakob@noaa.gov, sent 11/08/07):

1. NW Natural and CLPUD do not offer a "presenter" that can discuss sustainability issues but CLPUD did put me in touch with the company that does their energy audits. They have 2 individuals who may be able to come do a presentation for us. I am awaiting a call back.

2. NW Natural Gas does offer a FREE Natural Gas Equipment Inspection (details on their website) that can be scheduled online (www.nwnatural.com <<http://www.nwnatural.com/>> [Your Home] -> [Residential] -> [Services]) or thru phone call (800-422-4012). I have that info and will pass on at the 29 Nov brown bag. I can bring up the website to show people where it is.

3. CLPUD offers a FREE Energy Efficiency Audit through a contracted company (Efficiency Services Group). That can be scheduled by phone at 888-883-9879.

I think items 2 and 3 SHOULD be disseminated widely via an email from the HMSC Sustainability Committee but maybe AFTER the first brown bag. You could mention some kind of reference to this info in your email announcement of the brown bag to generate interest in that first brown bag which will be critical in establishing it as a monthly event. The info is publicly available but sounds like many people do not know about it so maybe something like "Learn about free services available in your community to make your house more efficient" would be a great "teaser" for that first brown bag.