

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2009

Members Present: Curt Whitmire, Anjanette Baker, Ken Hall, Devin Brakob, Jay Peterson, Jennifer Menkel, Judy Mullen, Sharon Nieu Kirk

Minutes: J. Mullen

Next Meeting : Tuesday, March 3rd, 10:30am

Public education/ outreach activities

a. Brownbag series:

Ken will ask **Brandon Trelstad**, OSU Sustainability Coordinator, to speak in March about OSU's Climate Action Plan and President Ray's charter membership in the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. We hope to have the brownbag on Tuesday, March 10, 17, or 24th depending on when Brandon can visit.

The committee brainstormed incentives that may increase brownbag attendance-- prizes or freebies such as CFL's or eco- friendly reusable grocery bags. Anjanette displayed lightweight bags that can be scrunched to fit in a purse or hang on a belt, purchased from <http://www.breezybags.com/> Anjanette also recommends <http://earth911.com/> as a useful green website.

Other potential brownbag speakers: Michael Davis (off the grid), Phil Barbour (wind power), OSU grad students to talk about their theses (which relate to sustainable issues), Vivien, who teaches the Climate Master's Class in Corvallis.

Action: Devin will ask Mike Sleight if he can supply more CFL's for this purpose.
Ken will ask Brandon Trelstad to speak in March.

b. Climate Change Teach-In

One hundred and sixty high school students attended the Climate Teach-In held at HMSC on February 6th. Panelist included Bill Bradbury (Oregon Global Warming Commission), Bill Peterson (HMSC-NOAA), and Jessica Hamilton (Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's designee) Students were able to ask questions of the panelists and show a short film they created about climate change.

Practicing sustainability (resource use efficiency improvements, reduce/reuse/recycle, demonstration projects, etc.)

a. OSU Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan

OSU's Sustainability Office plans to inventory greenhouse gasses every year, using a fiscal year July 1-July 30. OSU is serious about gaining climate neutrality and will submit a Climate Action Plan by September 2009. For more information and for tangible actions to take:

<http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/energy/climate.html>

<http://acupcc.aashe.org/report.php?id=3213>

The HMSC Sustainability Committee plans to continue its efforts to gather and calculate benchmark figures for the HMSC site. Electricity, gas and water usage data for HMSC can be harvested via the billings, but tracking travel mileage has proven more difficult to ascertain

as it is embedded with other travel costs, such as hotel charges. We can, however, ascertain the travel mileage from Enterprise Rental Cars and incorporate them.

b. HMSC Commuting Survey

We are currently surveying HMSC employees about their personal transportation habits (round-trip distance to work, mpg, frequency, etc.) in order to calculate HMSC transportation emissions. We hope HMSC's business office can help us separate air travel mileage from other travel costs so we can include them in our calculations and eventually offset these emissions. We plan to use the SurveyMonkey tool (or a similar program) next time we take the survey so that the process is easier--more consistent and systematic.

Anjanette has calculated the results of 114 surveys returned so far, but the committee wants to continue surveying more staff who have been missed in the first survey effort. We also want to run a similar survey during summer, when more biking and walking may prevail. So far, the Dec./Jan. survey results from 114 HMSC employees reflect the following averages.

Miles traveled for one round-trip from home to work:	26.72 miles
Average number of days worked per week:	4.84 days/wk
Average number of days person drives to work each week:	4.25 days/wk
Average miles per gallon per car:	24.10 mpg
Average miles traveled each week, round-trip from home to work :	113 miles/wk
Average total gallons of gas per week, round trip from home to work:	4.7 gallons
Average total gallons of gas per week for group of 114 people:	535.8 gallons

Action: All committee members will personally survey staff who have not yet answered survey.
Anjanette will get more responses from Sea Grant staff.
Anjanette will send survey out via email around March 1st.

Ken shared information about the carpool group from Siletz who share rides to HMSC; currently there are six members. They use a coupon system and the agreed-upon price was \$0.30 per mile for the driver. They plan to keep records and let our committee know how it works.

Anjanette presented bus schedules for the "Coast to Valley Express" and for the "Dial-A-Bus" for Lincoln, Benton, and Linn Counties. This material will be filed in the Sustainability binder located on the Reference shelf at Guin Library.

c. State and Federal Agency Initiatives:

The NWFSC at HMSC has been participating in the Federal Green Challenge since last October, choosing energy and solid waste reduction as its two areas of focus. The goal is to reduce them each by 5% in one year. For more information on the program:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/ECOCOMM.NSF/Federal+Green+Challenge/FedGreen>

Thea Smith (from NOAA office at Montlake, WA) will be visiting Newport's NOAA site in March or April. We hope she can talk to our committee about the Federal Green Challenge while she is here.

Action: Ken will ask Walt Nelson about EPA's efforts to reduce emissions.
Devin will ask Thea Smith if she can talk to our committee during her visit.

d. Recyclemania

Sharon reports that she has been measuring the contents of HMSC recycling bins since the Recyclemania Competition began several weeks ago. (<http://www.recyclemania.org/>) She is converting volume to weight for HMSC bins, depending on the type of contents. She notes that what is being recycled is mostly office paper, and that the cardboard dumpster is tricky because she can't tell when it gets picked up. Sharon can get the weight for the *giant* bin from Thompson's Sanitary. She has discovered that more bins are needed at NAL and RSF, and that we can refine the contents of these bins.

Sharon says that Range Bayer takes plastic bags to Fred Meyers for recycling; perhaps plastic bags and glass items should go directly to the transfer station? She also notes that Thea takes batteries for recycling. Curt offered to take Styrofoam to the coop in Corvallis, but we would need to pay a small fee.

Jennifer volunteered to collect HMSC returnables and give the proceeds to local charities. Everyone agreed this is a great idea. Hollis has some new bins, and we hope to use some of them for this purpose. Jennifer will make sure bins for "returnables" are labeled and deposited around the center, and then she'll send out a community email.

Action:

Jennifer: Locate bins for "returnables" and deposit them around the center & send community email about them.

-Deliver proceeds to local charities on a quarterly basis.

Sharon: Continue to measure and log contents of recycling bins.

e. Wormbin

The wormbin is located in HMSC's staff lounge. Sharon has added more worms and they are doing well; no one has complained about their location. She also provided a trowel for turning or adding soil. The compostable scrap-bucket is beneath the sink, and Melody or the library can provide shredded paper for composting.

f. OSU Engineering class audit/analysis of energy use inefficiencies

The HMSC seawater system was audited January 15th by OSU's engineering class.

We are waiting to hear the findings on energy inefficiencies and opportunities.

Planning, Administrative Communications

a. Sustainability at HMSC webpage:

We continued to discuss the need for and the difficulty of creating and maintaining an HMSC sustainability webpage. We plan to talk to Brandon Trelstad about possibilities for this, and to find out who maintains OSU's Sustainability webpages. Jay Peterson and Ken Hall have discussed creating a page for HMSC.

b. Sustainability Information Resources in Library

A large three-ring binder has been placed in Guin Library's Reference area; it contains minutes for each HMSC Sustainability Committee meeting plus related flyers, pamphlets and

Informational material.

c. Agencies represented on HMSC's Sustainability Committee

Representatives from several groups participate in HMSC's Sustainability Committee meetings: NOAA(NMFS, NWFSC, FRAM & FE divisions); OSU (CIMRS, Library, Facilities, Program Manager). Our goal is to recruit more participation from staff at EPA, USFW, and ODFW.

Action: Ken will add Arlene Merems (ODFW) to our email list.

Ken will contact Brandon Ford at ODFW to invite him to attend our meetings.

d. Other Projects

1. Greening Seafest: our goal is to continue to minimize Seafest's carbon footprint.

The Sustainability Committee should play a role very early in the Seafest planning process. One goal is to reduce solid waste via recycling well. We received tips from the Oregon Country Fair's Assistant Manager, Charlie Ruff, about food and container waste. Using compostable dishes presents the need for a place for composting them—which proves challenging. We may contact the master Gardeners or OSU Extension Office about composting possibilities. The fair did purchase durable silverware to cut down on plastics. Other ideas include using biodiesel in generators, using durable dishes which could be purchased and reused, and getting the "Solar Roller" truck to provide power. We can encourage attendees to ride-share, use bikes, or we can provide shuttle buses.

2. Climate Master Training for Lincoln County

The Lincoln County Sustainability Action Committee is hoping to import to Lincoln County the *Climate Master Training* class that is currently being offered in Linn/Benton Counties. The handbook for this class can be viewed at:

<http://climlead.uoregon.edu/pdfs/CMhandbookeugene.pdf>

Ken and Curt will attend the next meeting of the Climate Master Training class, in Corvallis.

3. Earthtub

HMSC is hoping to collaborate with the Green Team of the Oregon Coast Aquarium to write a grant to purchase an Earthtub. This tub would be available to HSMC for composting various kinds of organic waste. Our committee's delegate to this project is Jennifer Menkel who will help to write a grant for this purpose, jointly with ORCA staff.

