

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes for Oct. 6, 2009/ by J. Mullen

Members Present: Devin Brakob, Todd Cross, Christina Folger, Ken Hall, Judy Mullen, Randy Walker

Minutes posted online at: <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/content/minutes.html>

Next committee Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 10:30am, Barry Fisher Room

NOTE: Thank You and goodbye to Ken Hall and Devin Brakob who will both be leaving HMSC during November. Ken will move to California and Devin to Florida. Committee Members wish to express a huge THANK YOU to both of them for their dedication, hard work and commitment to making HMSC a workplace well-grounded in sustainable practice and education.

I. Randy Walker: Report on Solar and Green Improvements for HMSC

Randy Walker, HMSC facilities manager, has spoken with Robert Simonton, OUS Assistant Vice Chancellor for Capital Programs; OUS will be receiving funding from state and federal sources to be used for solar projects at several OUS institutions. Mr. Simonton says that "OUS aspirations are high: to make the system a recognized leader in sustainability."

<http://www.ous.edu/about/legnote09/files/Bob%20Simonton%20testimony%20and%20slides%204-23-09.pdf>

The HMSC Sustainability Committee is hopeful that HMSC may be one of the sites chosen for implementation of a solar project. Installing solar panels on the library roof or other appropriate areas around the HMSC campus would help to meet the statewide pledge to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of achieving climate neutrality.

Action: Ken Hall will ask George Boehlert to contact Bob Simonton; HMSC would like to get on the OUS list for possible solar installations Bob_Simonton@ous.edu / phone: 541-346-5728 in Eugene

Action: Ken Hall will ask Range Bayer if he would like to become a member of the HMSC Sustainability Committee.

Randy also discussed how Business Energy Tax Credit Pass-Through options might also be used by HMSC to achieve the use of solar power; this type of option allows schools and government agencies to transfer tax credit for an eligible project to a partner with a tax liability.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/CONS/BUS/tax/pass-through.shtml>

Randy Walker says he believes that it would be more efficient to use solar energy for heating water at HMSC than for creating electricity. Central PUD, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Energy Trust have incentives for implementing solar power in order to reduce consumption of electricity. However, Randy says, solar hot water systems cannot be implemented in buildings using natural gas; incentives may not apply.

Randy also plans to give Mark Sleight (of Central Lincoln PUD's Efficiency Services) a diagram of the light poles at HMSC; this will facilitate the implementation of LED streetlights at HMSC via a pilot program to be "dark sky" compliant. The pilot program's incentives will dramatically reduce the cost of each fixture.

Action: Randy will give Mark Sleight a map of the light poles at HMSC.

II. CFL's as Incentives

Devin Brakob has 12 cases of CFL light bulbs (approximately 200 two-packs) which the committee received from PUD's Mark Sleight. The group believes that the bulbs could be used as incentives for completing an online HMSC commuter survey, as well as for drawings held at our Sustainability Committee's monthly brown-bags.

III. Brown Bag Speakers

The group would like to have Laura Uhler speak at a brown bag in order to help everyone learn more about solar power. Laura is a solar power consultant/technician and grant writer from *Solar Ki, LLC* in Corvallis. (Phone 541-602-6909)
Email: Laurau@peak.org URL: <http://www.solarki.com>

Action: Randy will contact Laura Uhler to see if she can speak on a Tuesday or Wednesday in November.

Other suggestions for brownbag speakers:

- Randy suggests having a talk about small-scale wind turbines; he knows someone who may be able to speak on this subject.
- Ken Hall suggest getting someone to speak about the "350.org" group.

IV. "350.org" Day of Action Campaign on Oct. 24, 2009

The 350.org is "an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis."

<http://www.350.org/>

October 24th will be a day of environmental action by "350.org" with more than 5200 events to be held around the world. One 350.org group will walk the Oregon coast and hold public sessions in various coastal communities along the way. The walkers will be coming through Newport on Oct. 19, 2009 and will hold a talk one of the local churches.

V. Commuter Survey

The committee would like to take another commuter survey of the HMSC community. We wish to identify the distance from home to work, the miles per gallon of the vehicle driven, and the number of times per week that HMSC folks drive to work and home again. Devin agreed to create a "survey-monkey" version of these questions. He'll send it around to committee members for comments and suggestions before we send it out to the community at large.

Action: Devin will create a "Survey-Monkey" version of the HMSC Commuter Survey.