

HMSC Sustainability Committee 10/5/06 Meeting Minutes (Draft)

In attendance: Jim Colbert, Todd Cross, Ken Hall, Sharon Nieu Kirk, Jay Peterson, Tom Wainwright, Randy Walker

Miscellaneous

Coffee clubs at HMSC: Sharon Nieu Kirk reported that Dave Specht at EPA buys Mountanos Brothers coffee (sustainably grown?) for the coffee club at EPA, and has offered to coordinate a bigger buy if other coffee clubs at HMSC want to buy in to take advantage of the bulk discount. Dave says the 30-cent per cup donation box provides enough to keep their coffee club going.

Reports

Randy offered some details on the energy and resource efficiency improvements that have been made at HMSC.

Water: Six waterless urinals have been installed (3 in Visitor Center, 2 in Bldg. 900 West Wing, 1 in East Wing). Actual reductions in water use are hard to quantify, but each urinal is estimated to save 45,000 gallons of water per year. They also cut down on maintenance and need for replacement parts.

Energy: After an energy audit by Bonneville Power Administration in 2003, HMSC entered into an Energy Savings Performance Contract (EPSC) with McKinstry Co. of Portland, to make improvements in lighting and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) systems in the OSU buildings. For example, CO2 sensors installed in Guin Library seminar room trigger fresh air circulation when needed (in response to room full of people). Working through the state's Business Energy Tax Credit program and Bonneville's Conservation Augmentation rebate program, the up-front costs of making the energy efficiency improvements was greatly reduced. The improvements have resulted in reductions of 12%-13% in energy consumption and costs. Haven't had to change light bulbs or ballasts in 3 years.

Randy also reported on a solar energy demonstration project involving installation of a 1100-watt pole-mounted photo voltaic panel near the Visitor Center entrance.

Tom Wainwright presented a report from Hollis Lundeen, NOAA-NWFSC Operations Manager, on sustainable practices and issues related to operations in federal buildings (including RSF, NAL, Barry Fisher bldg.):

- Pollution Prevention Plan
- Water Usage/Recycling Seawater @ Montlake
- Utility Use: Jim Herkelrath is investigating a Grant with BPA
- Recycling/Disposal Computers... Thea Smith just completed a Newport Recycle Program
- Recycle Batteries... PMEL research batteries are recycled. Are people aware of locations in our mailrooms to drop off batteries? Contact Hollis for additional needs.
- Recycle Ink Cartridges
- Recycle solvents
- Use of digital cameras
- Hollis recycles all mail order catalogs, cancels out subscriptions, and then uses web info for ordering instead a of hardcopy catalogs.
- Paper and Cardboard recycle

The report from Hollis also contained a clarification of the pest management approach to spiders in the NOAA buildings (no pesticides or spraying).

EPA has a web page with information and resources for promoting sustainability. Take a look...

<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm#why>

Todd Cross practices and promotes sustainability in his work as HMSC's landscaper, and has noticed that herbicides are being used on the grounds around the EPA building. Todd suggested the committee might be

able to talk with EPA about exploring alternatives.

There was discussion on other programs, events, initiatives, etc. that sustainability committee might lead, including speakers, demonstration projects and other education/outreach efforts. It was suggested that we recognize HMSC staff members who are implementing sustainability practices in their own lives, with profile articles in the newsletter and on the web page. Jim Colbert reported that Laurie Weitkamp and husband Terry would be interested in giving a talk on latest research on wind energy turbines and technology.

Sharon and Ken expressed support for organizing all of the ideas being discussed into some sort of grid, to help the committee prioritize, identify tasks, and track progress on our efforts. If you want to give your left brain some exercise and can help with this before the next meeting, please contact Sharon or Ken.

Ken to invite OSU Sustainability Coordinator Brandon Trelstad to come to our next meeting to provide information on what is happening at OSU with respect to Governor's recently announced sustainability goals, and also to present information on composting with worms (how they're doing it at OSU).

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, **November 8th** at **11am** in the Guin Library Seminar Room. Representatives from Oregon Coast Aquarium's green team are invited to attend.