

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2009/ by J. Mullen

Present: Devin Brakob, Christen Don, Todd Cross, Christina Folger, Ken Hall, Hollis Lundeen, Judy Mullen, Sharon Nieukirk, Thea Smith (NOAA visitor from Montlake), Tom Wainwright, Randy Walker

March brownbag: Dave Burr (EMS at Corvallis EPA office) (March 17 –date not confirmed yet)

Next committee meeting: April 7, 10:30am

Reports from agency representatives on EMS (Environmental Management System), Federal Green Challenge

Thea Smith (NOAA/NWFSC) Montlake

Thea provided a window for the committee to understand NOAA's EMS and the Federal Green Challenge model. She outlined various steps for creating an EMS, some of which included: Commit to an EMS policy, appoint an EMS contact, identify site-specific environmental impacts and baselines, rank significant impacts using science-based algorithm, identify targets for improvement and create an action plan, use measurable data, make regular audits to review or revise the process and to track results.

Thea noted that four main targets for her NOAA-Montlake group include: land contamination, energy consumption, solid waste, water discharge. She also mentioned that NOAA felt it necessary to add a staff member for doing outreach related to the EMS. She also said that using the Federal Green Challenge model includes a lot of paperwork.

NOAA's Manchester site, near Seattle, got a new energy-efficient pump which allowed for a 40% reduction in energy consumption. A huge rebate (incentive) was available for buying it which greatly reduced its price. Manchester is the only EPA/NOAA Superfund site in the nation; it was contaminated by a former Navy landfill, boat depot and fire training area.

She also identified an electronics recycling company, *Greendisk*, that can responsibly dispose of all computer-related waste (technotrash) by destroying old data, recovering reusable components, and recycling the rest—all at a reasonable cost. View the website at: <http://www.greendisk.com/>

Thea also helps her group to collect, sort, and recycle a variety of batteries which amount to over 4000 pounds per year. Our group noted that used batteries can also be deposited at the Newport fire station or at Newport Public Library.

Hollis Lundeen (NOAA/Facilities Operations Manager, Newport)

Hollis presented a handy list which identifies the locations and contact persons for various items to be recycled: Comingled items-Hollis / Plastic bags or glass-Range Bayer & Hollis / Batteries-Hollis and Thea / Returnables-Jennifer Menkel / Technotrash-Barry Semple / Cardboard-Todd Cross.

Hollis has new bins for "Returnables" and also has new cans for recycling the plastic bags. She will be placing these at locations in RSF, NAL, BFB. Plastic bags can be taken to Newport Safeway or Fred Meyers, but Fred's can also take plastic film and a wider variety of clear plastics. Randy Walker also accepts plastic bags for use at the local farmer's market. No one at the meeting knew where styrofoam could be recycled.

Christina Folger (EPA, Newport)

Newport's EPA began their environmental management system in 2002; the EPA uses a scorecard for determining progress of federal agencies. Currently their focus is on several significant target areas which were ranked and chosen according to their potential consequences or adverse effects. They include: water consumption, energy consumption, chemical hygiene and resources, fuel consumption, electronic stewardship, wastewater discharge.

The Newport EPA has a heavy-duty scale (starts at 100 lb weights) that can weigh everything that gets recycled. They have been able to recycle 45% of their solid waste. One successful resource-saving idea that has been implemented at EPA is rainwater catchment; Newport EPA has two 13,000 gallon tanks for this purpose. This water is frequently used for washing EPA boats and could be used for landscaping purposes. Walt Nelson, at Newport's EPA, participates in agency-wide sustainability planning.

Ken Hall (HMSC, OSU)

Ken described the model used to ascertain a snapshot of OSU's greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The model includes various sections (called "Scopes") which categorizes emissions according to how and where they are generated. Scope 1 includes all direct emissions from sources owned or directly controlled by OSU; Scope 2 includes emissions produced from purchased or imported resources; Scope 3 includes "all other indirect sources of greenhouse gas emissions that result from organizational activities from sources not owned or controlled by the organization." For more information on OSU's Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2007, see: <http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/docs/fy07ghgreport.pdf>

Other Reports and Updates

Recyclemania:

Sharon is now in the 8th week of measuring HMSC recycling by converting volume to weight. This is producing a somewhat approximate result. Sharon called Thompson's Sanitary to get the exact weight of the trash in the gigantic dumpster; it recently has ranged from 900 -3000 pounds. (EPA and USFW have their own recycling bins and trash bins). Everyone else shares the big dumpster and blue recycle bins. Our goal is to change existing habits with regard to recycling; we want to encourage more recycling by placing well-labeled bins at strategic locations. Our data will help substantiate improvements.

Planning, Administrative, Communications

Greening SeaFest:

Ken is requesting that members of the Sustainability Committee attend the next SeaFest meeting to discuss how SeaFest can incorporate sustainable practices to reduce the waste stream. We can share the suggestions that Lisa Mulcahy got from the manager of the Oregon Country Fair-- and other ideas.

Climate Master Training for Lincoln County

Ken and Curt attended a recent segment of the 10-week class. Lincoln County hopes to import the class.

HMSC Sustainability Webpage

Ken has begun to work on an HMSC Sustainability page

Brownbag Incentives

Devin reports that he contacted Mike Sleight about getting more CFL's as incentives for brownbag attendance; Mike agreed to provide more.

For next meeting: HMSC commuting survey (Anjanette), OSU Engineering class audit/ analysis of energy use and seawater system(Randy), report on attending one segment of the Climate Master Training class (Ken and Curt)

Actions:

Sharon: Ask Henry Lee or John Lupton about the standard measurement of CO2 for calculating greenhouse gas emissions

Kristen Don: Find out what ODFW recycles and/or tracks

Ken: Ask Brandon Trelstad when he can speak to HMSC Sustainability Committee

Ken: Ask Dave Burr if he can be the March brownbag speaker (EMS at Corvallis EPA office)