

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: July 16, 2009/ by J. Mullen

Members Present: Anjanette Baker, Todd Cross, Christina Folger, Ken Hall, Judy Mullen

MINUTES

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday August 11th

**Next Brownbag: Mark Saelens: Calculating your Carbon Footprint
July 30th, Noon, Guin Library seminar room**

1. Earthtub Update

Ken is continuing his discussion with Oregon Coast Aquarium staff about shared use of the Earthtub. The grant writing for the tub is nearly finished; HMSC hopes to use the tub for food waste and possibly lawn clippings, garden debris, etc. as appropriate.

2. Sustainability: What we've done so far

We discussed some of the things our committee has accomplished so far: Monthly brown bags as educational forum, transportation survey/Rideshare website, Earthtub grant writing, Earth Day activities, greening of SeaFest, CFL giveaways, greenhouse gas emissions calculation, climate change conference for visiting school children. Ken continues to pursue implementation of green design for HMSC and the possibility of getting solar panels for the library roof.

3. Environmental Management System (EMS)

Our group began the process of creating an EMS for HMSC by brainstorming a list of items which may produce significant environmental impacts at our site. Christina Folger provided the group with a copy of EPA's spreadsheet of *significant environmental aspects* (SEA's) as one example of the kinds of issues we might need to consider. Her list included such topics as fuel, water and energy consumption, wastewater discharge, recycling, chemical resources, electronic stewardship, air pollution, sustainable design, noise, storage tanks, and collection permits. Using this list as a springboard, we brainstormed categories which we believe need to be considered or included in an EMS for HMSC.

HMSC Significant Environmental Aspects: (what we came up with so far...)

Our list includes seven general categories of need; we'll review each category to identify specific impacts occurring at HMSC and to determine measureable objectives and targets for improvement.

Energy Consumption

Fuel Consumption

Solid Waste

Water consumption/ Wastewater

Electronic Stewardship

Chemical and Hazardous waste

Habitat Stewardship

Action: Ken will place our significant aspects (above) on a spreadsheet so that we can further refine each of them. Then we'll identify specific actions to be taken and how to measure the desired outcomes.

Todd commented that *water consumption* and *wastewater disposal* may likely be one of our most significant environmental aspects. The seawater system is treated with chlorine and then retreated with sodium bisulphate to get rid of the chlorine.

Christina offered examples of why we need to address *habitat stewardship* as an important issue. It seems that many members of the public are harvesting mud shrimp from the bay near the EPA building: they use shrimp pumps to procure bait shrimp--but in the process trample and destroy habitat. The group agreed that some actions can be taken:

- a. HMSC Education programs: teach visiting school kids about habitat and ask them to stay on the walking path
- b. Make signs about respecting habitat and place them around our site and near the shrimp pumping areas
- c. Talk to HMSC's director and others about this issue

We also discussed simple changes we could make that may save energy consumption, such as turning off the lights. We agreed that using simple tools and making simple changes might lead to big savings: Use stickers or magnets near light switches reminding us to turn them off; timers, motion detectors, LED lighting.

Ken reminded us that OSU's president has signed on to the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). This promises that a climate neutrality action plan will be established and that an emissions inventory will be taken each year.

With these ideas in mind, we created the list below.



EPA Spreadsheet
Significant As...