

HMSC Sustainability Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2010

Meeting Location: Barry Fisher Room, Guin Library, 10:30am

Members Present: Anjanette Baker, Maryann Bozza, Rick Brown, Todd Cross, Judy Mullen, Jay Peterson, Candace Rogers, Tom Wainwright, Randy Walker, Curt Whitmire, Lynne Wright

Next Brownbag: *March 16th, noon, Library Seminar Room*

Jim Linhares, Northwest Wind Solutions, LLC - *Small Wind turbines*

Next Committee Meeting: **Tuesday, April 6, 2010, 10:30-noon, Barry Fisher Room**

Welcome to new members Lynne Wright, Candace Rogers and Maryann Bozza. The committee is pleased to have you attend.

1. Greenhouse Gas Inventory update

Maryann Bozza reminds us that OSU's 2008 inventory is available online and the 2009 inventory will be posted soon at: <http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/measurement-reporting> She will need to submit the commuting distance for the HMSC community to this annual inventory by April and needs to know how many miles HMSC folks commute to work. We will incorporate this question into our upcoming transportation survey. Administering the commuting survey will become an annual event for gleaning data for the Greenhouse Gas Inventory; therefore we should be consistent in our questions and document them well.

Maryann asks if the electricity usage for heating can be separated from the amount of electricity used for other purposes; Randy says that this may be possible for the library building (Bldg.909) and the Visitor Center (Bldg. 900), since those buildings do have a thermostat that logs the kilowatts used for heating.

Action: Randy will check to see if heating kw's can be broken out from other electrical usage

Maryann tells us that HMSC has lowered its natural gas usage by 20% and its electric consumption by 11% since last year. What we do not know is how much of this is a function of milder weather, and how much is due to conservation efforts. We need to know if there is a formula to normalize these figures according to a weather standards computed over time.

2. HMSC Commuting/Transportation Survey

We agreed that a subcommittee will create the HMSC Bus/Commuting survey to be administered this spring. Maryann, Anjanette, Judy, Curt and Todd will arrange a meeting time to work on this. Brandon Trelstad, Sustainability Coordinator at OSU, Corvallis, can help us create and run the survey--probably via Survey Monkey. We noted that getting zip codes from survey-takers might be useful in determining from which direction more buses/carpools might be needed. We'll share the results with the Port of Newport folks who would also like to gain better bus service to the area in order to qualify for LEED Certification for the new NOAA buildings to be built in South Beach.

Action: Maryann will set up a meeting time for the subcommittee to create the transportation survey

3. Upcoming Brownbags

March Brownbag: Jim Linhares, Northwest Wind Solutions, LLC, will speak *Tuesday, March 16th at noon in the Library Seminar Room*. He will discuss small, American-made wind turbines. His goal is to “educate people and businesses that have strong wind resources about how they can take advantage of that wind to save money and help the environment.”

<http://www.northernpower.com/> and <http://nwwindsolutions.com/> and www.AbundantRE.com/

Action: Judy will send blurb about brownbag to News Times; Judy will make flyer

April Brownbag: Curt Whitmire will ask Michael and Sally Noack, Master Gardeners, if they can do a garden talk in April since Sam Angima, local Extension Agent, is booked until July.

Other ideas: Phil Barbour on wind power; Extension’s nutritionist; Brandon Trelstad, Sustainability Coordinator from Corvallis; CSA’s and local farmer’s market folks

4. Sustainable Computing at HMSC

Much energy can be saved by turning off computers at night and by changing computer power settings. The committee may want to make a push to inform staff at HMSC about the big value of such a small change.

Action: Curt and Todd will talk to their respective IT staff to see if this can be done without much difficulty.

See: <http://computing.fs.cornell.edu/Sustainable/FSSustainableComputingGuide.pdf>

5. Bulleted emails for Management Committee

One of our goals is to strengthen communication among HMSC agencies; therefore, we plan to send periodic emails to the HMSC Management Committee regarding our projects.

Maryann volunteered to send out such emails. Rick suggested sending the managers an email when the commuting survey is ready; this will give them a “heads up” alert and a chance for us to ask for their support. We may also send out an email about sustainable computing after we find out more about how the various agencies at HMSC set up their computer power settings.

Action: Maryann send email to management group when survey is ready.

6. Environmental Management System (EMS)

Tom Wainwright developed a draft EMS around the seven focus areas selected by the Sustainability Committee. This exercise has been valuable to the group to help organize and prioritize our goals. But because the various agencies at HMSC have differing mandates from the state and federal levels, the group decided it was cumbersome to try to fit all groups under one EMS umbrella. Therefore, we hope to use the document as a tracking device to log our efforts, improvements and accomplishments. It can serve more like a strategic plan than a formal EMS, and can be used as a living document or roadmap so we can see where we’ve been and where we want to go. We plan to review and update the document periodically.

7. Bike Lockers and Shelters

Anjanette investigated the bike lockers at the Corvallis campus. There are 14 lockers which

each hold two bikes. These lockers are quite expensive to purchase. There are also bike spaces in the parking lot with bollards around them. We'll include some questions about bike usage on the HMSC transportation survey. We wondered if bikers at HMSC could use the kiosk (in front parking lot) as a bike shelter?

8. Miscellaneous Tidbits, Ideas and Comments

- Maybe we should have a "green tip of the month" message to all HMSC
- Do a brownbag on recharging stations for electric cars. Find out more about "Zen" cars.
- Ask for some funding (budget) for projects by the Sustainability Committee
- Turn the thermostat down just one degree to create a big cost savings.
- Running a laptop which is plugged into electricity for a long period uses more energy than running on batteries and recharging them regularly.
- Lisa Mulcahy (Mid-Coast Watersheds Council) is coordinating a trip to Pioneer Mountain; she has a sign-up sheet.
- If parking fees were initiated at HMSC, would more folks take the bus? Or carpool?
- There is a small area on campus available for metal recycling
- Most HMSC groups use 100% recycled paper in copy machines. Look at website for recycled paper information: <http://earth911.com/news/2009/04/06/8-ways-to-reduce-your-impact-today/>