

## Sustainability Committee Meeting Notes

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

### I. Introductions

### II. Dan: Marketing & Education Task Force Update:

- Working on the website, promo cards (committee can get these)
- Curriculum component is still being developed
- New faculty member on task force
- October 25<sup>th</sup> Leadership Conference on zero waste (includes students from all local colleges)
- They're working on creating a sustainability guide.
- Burton suggests: hosting seminars that attendees can then host wherever they are based so we don't have to do everything. Also, creating dept. workshops for all of their offices.

### III. Madison: Sustainability Plan

- She's writing the elec. Conservation & technology section now.
- Wants to meet with the physical plant, and is going to get in writing what has been done.

### IV. Tom Fressilli

- They are working on staging where to put new recycling bins. Needs funding, but put in the requests.
- Steve Osborne is supportive

V. Fritz is concerned as to whether or not custodians actually collect these recyclables. Burton said that it's apparently not a problem anymore; the maroon bins seem to work well. The other topic discussed is having a work study for a student to pick up recyclables in the pedicab.

### VI. Burton with the Policy Task force:

- They haven't met yet, have plans to meet
- Proposed that all task force leaders put together a list of goals with projects and a timeline to support these goals. This can all go onto the website as well. Setting deadlines helps completion.

### VII. Biology Class: Sustainable Outlook:

- The biology, diversity, and conservation class is having groups to simulate solutions proposals. Board of judges will pick one of these solutions to put into motion.
- "Longitudinal Grant" ~\$500 for this plan, being written by faculty now. Email challenge ideas to Dan for students to consider. Fritz: Activity to simulate eco-footprint. Allison (Last name?) Bio professor that will have ~200 students participating.
- CofC Parent Listesrv → Freshman can't have cars on campus so an idea was to have a zip car program where C of C cuts a deal with the company. **One worry** was that there will be too few participants, keeping them in good condition. But **the good things/ideas:** other schools do it (so it's possible), you only have to be 18, and we could keep them in the parking garage. **Talk to:** parking services, policy force, RFP Process, the garages.

#### VIII. Fritz: Grant for Healthy Communities:

- Material and organic waste: CofC puts out 5,000 lbs. of food waste/week
- Other campuses that compost: they have worm boxes & invessels, but we don't know if they have Aramark
- Pros: Tax deductible, less waste, can be tailored to our school's needs, produces grade A nutrient rich soil every 28 days
- Cons: Urban schools need a space near campus or invessel compost machine- where can we put it? Another problem is whether or not the compost will have traces of toxic waste and plastic in it.
- One idea is trucking the compost out to Dixie Plantation but we would need to identify people to upkeep and convert a flatbed truck to veggie diesel. Will cost ~\$2,000 then train someone to do this trip daily.
- If there is meat and dairy involved, they'd have to go daily.
- If we get this machine it will have cogs with pressure and heat and it turns itself a few times a week. Costs ~\$350,000 and is 4yd/3yd/7ft
- Would be great if we could get community to help in development and funding (can be obtained by companies like SCE&G) If you market the compost as giving back it may work because people love funding rural areas. We're also minimizing what the trash companies would usually have to deal with. Could we work with another school? What are the problems with partnerships?

#### IX. Burton: Zero Waste Goals

- Other schools are doing is now we can too.
- CofC spends ~\$1,000,000/year taking trash away

#### X. Green Fair: 9/28/08

- Call for volunteers to be there en lieu of \$50 table fee for Sus. Committee

#### XI. Talking about introducing a green/sustainability theme for Homecoming 2009:

- We need to identify houses or offices on campus that we might be able to "greenify," and also think of other ways to get students involved in promoting this theme.
- A sorority on campus, for example, is planning to put on a 'green' fashion show
- The idea of promoting 'green' tailgating was also discussed, as was the importance of trying to use the events as a sort of 'coming out party' for the sustainability committee.
- An issue was raised about whether or not a separate committee should be used to organize the Homecoming events.
- We also discussed how important it is for the school to remain consistent with regards to their environmental policies because the model must go both ways, we can't undercut the efforts of students.
- Other ideas that were talked about: maybe instituting an energy challenge for some of the dormitory buildings during Homecoming.

XII. Burton said that we would get to some of the last topics on the Agenda (including the budget) in our next meeting in October. Meetings will, as of now, be scheduled for 10 AM the first Wednesday of every month.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.