

Environmental Council
Minutes
Thursday, September 18, at 8am in J203

In attendance: Tara Speck, Tim Lutz, Walt Cressler, Marianne Peffall, Andrew Barrett, Joan Woolfrey, Patrick Gardner, Kurt Kolasinski, Jess R. Duffy, Paul Morgan, Joy Fritschle, Pete Galloway, Ed Bruno, Dave Gulick, Joan Welch and Tim Beshore

Rework the budget according to the response from Larry Dowdy – see attached – remove GA, AWA, most of Sustainability Center budget, and all of website budget except for \$200 for web name and domain fees.

Update on progress made with the website – web name chosen: WCUGreen.org and .com, Michael Pearson will attend next meeting to show us initial pages

Student projects this year: rainwater garden, completing LEEDS certification for SOMPAC, commitment to use sustainably forested wood for campus facilities projects, commitment to have construction waste management in every bid, speakers, movie series

Tara Speck and Patrick Gardner working on Rain Garden – EC in collaboration with EARTH group will take care of Sustainability Center rain garden. Perhaps use ‘adopt a block’ idea to have regular tending of rain garden.

SOMPAC – fulfill requirements to secure LEEDS designation – Marianne Peffall said that we are close to working out an agreement with Philly Car Share, and perhaps one or more of the vehicles could be parked in a slot at SOMPAC to help fulfill ride share ‘promise’ for building. We also learned that the University has purchased a rideshare program that could then be directed to designated parking slots at SOMPAC. (Chris Brenner is working on rideshare issue.) Sustainable sites credit 4.4 is the LEED credit that we need to address. Option 2 reads "provide preferred parking for carpools or vanpools, marked as such, for 5% to total provided parking spaces."

Marianne Peffall offered to look into the possibility of having all bid contracts (over \$10,000?) include sustainably harvested forest products that have been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC certified sustainably harvested wood). If we could gain campus support (student support in particular), this practice could have far-reaching, positive sustainability impacts.

David Gulick agreed to look into having all bid projects include a construction/demolition waste management plan. This reduces the amount of waste going to a landfill, and generally is less expensive than sending waste to a landfill. This would be a no-brainer...but estimators are still insisting that administrative costs involved make this a more expensive option. The debate continues.

Andrew Barrett shared with us that the EARTH group is having a movie series on Monday, Oct. 27 in the Sykes Theater. The general plan is to show a movie at 5pm, have

a panel discussion or EC presentation, and then show another movie at 9m. Paul Morgan offered that his presentation that he has been asked to give with Larry Dowdy might be good for this.

Tim Lutz is a member of Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction (BLUER), and along with Chester County's Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHGR) Task Force, are currently in the action planning stage. Tim was looking for suggestions about how to 'interface' more with these groups, and was also pleased to be able to report to BLUER that WCU is going ahead with car share and ride share programs. Tim also suggested that more collaboration between the Borough and WCU would be better because some of these programs work better on a larger scale. Courtney Marm is working on a car share program for the Borough, for example.

Students are very interested in improving bike use on campus. Discussion included increasing the number of bicycle racks on campus, and EARTH agreed to take on an inventory of current racks, and promoting the addition of more bicycle racks on campus (one for every building?). Dave Gulick looked into a bike share program, but that cost starts at \$90,000 with \$20,000 annually for maintenance. This may be something that should be explored as a join project between the University and the Borough.