

MINUTES  
**Committee on Environmental Sustainability**  
9/14/07

Present:        Dave Fowler                    Natalie Osterhoudt                    Jill Thompson  
                  Peggy Green                    Ann Charlot                    Alex Denis  
                  Joe Castillo                    Jimmy Chica                    David Shulman  
                  John Moscovitz                    Alan Lebovitz

Absent:        Patricio Gonzalez & Diana Honeyblue-Monroe

Guests:        Betsy Pierre (for Diana Honeyblue-Monroe)  
                  Francisco Hoyos  
                  Bill Pennell  
                  MaryBeth Burton (FAU)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by the chair, Peggy Green. She welcomed new and returning members, and all members and guests introduced themselves.

Thanks to David Shulman who provided last minute technical support, Dave Fowler was able to present his excellent PowerPoint presentation that explained what the college has already accomplished through energy and water conservation projects, and outlined possible projects to implement this year. The committee and the college are indebted to Dave's tireless work -- in his position as mechanical and environmental engineer in the Facilities Department -- on projects that not only have saved the college a documented \$7.5 million over the last ten years, but also prevented the release of tons of pollutants into the environment. After considerable discussion, the committee voted on and unanimously supported the following recommendations to be sent to Mr. Pennell, V.P. for Finance and Facilities:

**First Priority:** Create a position for Director of Sustainable Initiatives who would oversee such projects as energy and water conservation initiatives as well as our recycling program. He or she would initiate new projects as needed, oversee existing projects, and monitor success so that the college can receive updates on our progress. This individual should be well versed in LEED building standards, and have the expertise to oversee an environmental management system for the college. He or she should also be given the authority to enforce college policies related to sustainable practices, and help educate the college community about the importance of sustainable practice. It has been documented at other colleges that this position more than pays for itself in the savings gleaned from raising efficiency and reducing waste in college operations.

**Second Priority:** It is recommended that the Director of Sustainable Initiatives oversee the following projects this year:

- 1) Water Conservation Phase 1: Replace (approx) 180 flush valve urinals with waterless urinals. Savings: \$88,000 / yr.
- 2) Water Conservation Phase 2: Replace (approx) 200 flush valve toilets with low flow type. Savings: \$120,00 / yr
- 3) Energy Misers: Install energy misers on refrigerated vending machines. Savings: \$7500 / yr

- 4) Replace Gas Boiler in Building 10 with a water heater (perhaps tankless). Savings \$18,000 / yr.
- 5) Swimming Pool Heater: Turn off swimming pool heater at Central Campus. Savings: \$18,000 / yr
- 6) Cooling Towers: Convert cooling towers on North, Central and South from city water to well water. Initial investment in digging wells, engineering costs, piping and water treatment will be partly offset by a \$50,000 per campus SFWMD grant received when the project is completed. Savings: \$150,000 / yr

**Third Priority:** The following projects may take longer to initiate, but are also excellent sources of energy savings:

- 7) Parking Lot Lighting: Add time clocks to all parking lot lights collegewide. This will require rewiring. Savings: \$20,000 / yr
- 8) Phase 4 Performance Contract. Siemens, our present performance contractor, has proposed new projects for the next phase. The college will have to consider the pros and cons of using subcontractors to do these projects individually or hiring a performance contractor such as Siemens.

We then discussed a reorganization to increase effectiveness of sustainable initiatives on the campuses. Each campus environmental/sustainability committee will have at least one representative from the collegewide committee to serve as a liaison between the two. Natalie Osterhoudt is already a member of the South Campus Environmental Committee and Peggy Green is on the North Campus Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Environmental Sustainability. Alex Denis volunteered to organize a committee at the WHC (Peggy Green will contact Dr. Bolton to determine if Alex should send the minutes and agenda to her or her designee), and Jimmy Chica will serve on the Central Campus Advisory Committee's Subcommittee on Environmental Concerns. Committee members were urged to support all committee initiatives, and encourage colleagues to participate as well.

The committee next reviewed on-going projects. Alex reported that the recycling program is still experiencing some operational flaws. A new contractor has been hired for campus maintenance, and Broward County needs to train the new staff on how to properly handle materials in the recycle bins. The campuses have still not placed all the new bins around the campus. When placed, everyone agreed that an announcement should be made encouraging use of the bins and seeking feedback to determine if the bin locations are convenient.

Alex Denis agreed to be sure Mr. Pennell received a copy of the proposed College Sustainability Policy that has already been approved by the President's Cabinet and reviewed by the college attorney. Hopefully it will go before the Board of Trustees at the next meeting.

Natalie Osterhoudt agreed to take a photo of the Sustainability Superstars recognized at the last Colleague Recognition Day so that they could be showcased on our web site. All four, Debbie Sloan, Pat Ellingham, Kathleen Rhoad, and Terri Justice, are serving on the South Campus Environmental Committee again this year.

Jill Thompson and Dave Fowler agreed to author the Earth Literacy Column for On Target. Peggy will send them "Green Tips" ideas.

David Shulman agreed to be the webmaster for our WAM committee web page. He will contact Karen Peruzzi to gain access to the site in order to upload materials.

Earth Day and the Graduation Pledge were briefly explained before we moved on to new projects. We are waiting to hear if we received a \$50,000 wildflower grant. The Faculty Senate endorsed Focus the Nation, and plans are underway on all campuses to begin events leading up to a symposium on January 24 where students will take part in a discussion of global warming solutions. Committee members were urged to review the calendar of sustainability workshops and events, and to participate and encourage others to participate in as many as possible.

MaryBeth Burton from FAU offered to work with BCC to place barrels for collection of usable items for the Trash to Treasure program she is promoting. This is a great way to conserve resources. Teachers, artists and others pay a small fee to join, and then can come to their warehouse to pick up whatever items they wish to help with their work. Jill Thompson offered to work with Mary Beth on placing the barrels for collecting items such as notebooks, cloth, construction paper, and yarn. Perhaps Student Life can coordinate advertising the opportunity so that usable items will be diverted from the trash stream. Peggy asked Betsy Pierre to talk to take the pamphlet distributed by MaryBeth to Diana Honeyblue-Monroe, our member who works in Student Life on Central. Luis, an FAU student, invited BCC to participate in a program he is organizing at the FAU campus on BCC Central Campus. Best Fest will focus on the environment, health, self-awareness, and finance. Betsy was asked to take this idea to Diana also.

Finally, Peggy suggested that the certificate received by North Campus for converting to recycled paper towels and toilet tissue be reproduced and displayed in each restroom as a way to model sustainable practice for our students. The committee agreed, so Peggy will take this to the North Campus Environmental Subcommittee to implement. If the other campuses received a similar certificate, posting could be college wide.

Having completed our business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm. **The next meeting will be held in the same location (19-134) at 1:00 pm on October 12.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Green