Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 19, 2009

Dining Commons – 3:11PM

Present: Carsten Braun
        Curt Robie
        Marijoan Bull
        Mike Young
        Caitlin Barry
        Trudy Knowles

Curt informed the group that we are requesting bids for campus wide recycling stations to replace the outdoor trash cans and the indoor totes. This will likely be completed for the beginning of the spring semester. He also explained that we will be phasing into a Single Source Recycling program which allow for only 2 receptacles at each station, one for land fill destination and the other for all recyclables combined (cans, glass, plastic, mixed paper).

Curt reported about a recent meeting with DCAM (Department of Capital Assets Management) wherein, several sustainability ideas were discussed.
- Refurbishing our main power plant to operate on wood chip fuel
- Construction of a centralized cooling plant (ice house) which would cool campus buildings during warm weather using air chilled through ice house rather than electricity or fuel oil.
DCAM would provide funding / loan options to assist with the implementation of these.

A discussion: (Westfield Gas & Electric switching to renewable energy) followed with Curt stating that this was unlikely due to the resulting increase in residential rates.

Curt reported the latest developments in the partial re-acquisition of Juniper Park School, describing the likely replacement of boiler fronts to accommodate dual fuel (gas / diesel) sources.

Carsten inquired as to the status of the trayless dining plan. Curt and Bill explained that the project was stuck in a financial quagmire. In order to facilitate student approval, there would have to be an improvement in food quality, selection and presentation. The cost of new service-ware (to improve food presentation) would be roughly $48,000…a difficult pill to swallow - given the frequency of replacement due to theft and breakage.

Carsten expressed frustration with the lack of response to his many requests from the college to fill the vacancies on the sustainability committee. To date the committee is shy 4 STAFF members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM