

Minutes/Notes of 7th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Noon, Student Life Center, SUB
<http://www.adams.edu/sustainability> (our website)
<http://ascearth.wordpress.com/> (blog – add a comment!)

Present: Christy Miller, Cameron Miller, Kailee Potter, Monica Perez, Ziane Frawan, Edgar Thomas, Christine Preiss, Karla Hardesty, Tracy Doyle, Dan Carver, Marc Eaton, Paul Kobe, Laura Moore, Chuck Reel, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Belinda Toth, Jared Beeton, Jennifer Ribar, Marty Jones.

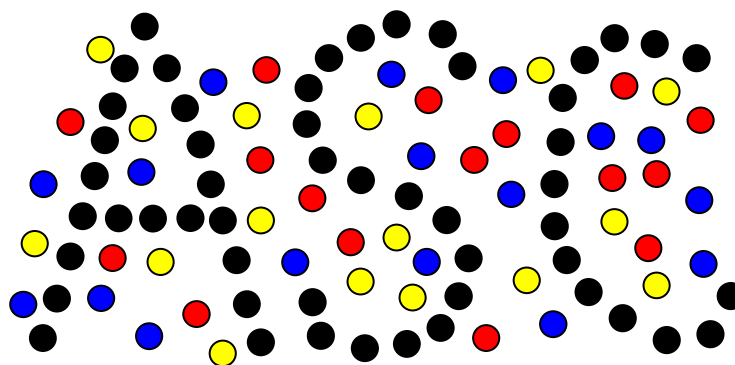
Next meeting: Tuesday, March 4, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Regular meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month this semester.

Marty started the meeting with some exciting announcements. First, at the ASC Focus the Nation event on January 31, President Svaldi stated that Adams State College would be joining the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE, <http://www.aashe.org/index.php>) and that he would ask the Board of Trustees at their meeting on February 15, 2008 to become a signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (<http://www.aashe.org/index.php>). Folks, both of these commitments are a consequence of our group making our voices heard and represent significant action on the part of ASC. Thanks for your efforts – we can and are making a difference! Also at the Focus the Nation Event, the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES, <http://www.cres-energy.org/>) left information and membership application pamphlets. A limited number of student memberships may be underwritten by some friends (and members) of EARTH (Mary Carhartt and David Broberg); please contact Marty ASAP if you would like to become a member of CRES. Finally, Edgar Thomas was introduced as our first EARTH work-study student. Edgar is beginning a project to consolidate recycling efforts by surveying all buildings on campus and finding the existing recycling boxes. He'll establish a "base" area for storing recyclable materials in each building, then arrange for regular pickup of the materials. [NOTE: As a consequence of attendance at this meeting, two additional students have expressed interest in becoming work-study students for EARTH. Welcome, Monica Perez and Kailee Potter! Paperwork will shortly be completed for these two students and assignments can then be made.]

Task Forces provided reports. Christy and Cameron reported from the **Energy Task Force** that Gary Jones from Facilities Services will be retiring this spring and that as a part of the campus interview process, we are encouraged to participate in open forums. Ask questions of the candidates regarding their views and commitment to sustainability initiatives. Express your opinions and let the candidates know how important this topic is to our campus. Interviews are likely to be held later on this spring, so watch your email and Portal for dates and times. Gary would like to contract with Xcel Energy to conduct an energy audit, but that's pretty expensive and may not happen for a while. An examination of new computers on campus revealed that they are actually pretty energy efficient – the CPU uses only 70 watts and the LCD monitor only 30 watts. With various power-saving modes switched on, even less energy will be consumed while the computers are running. Data regarding use of energy for heating the campus is available for 2006 and will soon be available for 2007. After normalization for degree heating days, a comparison can be made between the two years. Still to be completed is a study of lighting on campus. In several areas on campus, more energy is used for lighting than is really necessary. For example, when only one person is working in a large space, typically all the lights in the space are turned on because of how the switches are connected. There are some State of Colorado requirements for minimum lumens in work/study areas, but the Task Force will investigate whether we can still meet the requirements without having to illuminate unused space (e.g., by using desk lamps);

Christine and Dan reported for the **Recycling Task Force**, which is still very active in collecting recyclable plastic bottles and cans at the sporting events on campus (this winter, basketball games and wrestling matches). To increase awareness of just how many plastic bottles have been collected, the task force has created a "bottle cap mosaic" that I've tried to reproduce (poorly, though) on the next page. More than two hundred caps have been glued onto the mosaic thus far, and another set of caps from recent games have yet to be added!. One of the task force members, Kyli Kehler, has some old 55 gal drums at her farm that she will donate for use as outdoor recycle bins. They need to be cleaned up, but should work fine. Additional drums are likely available at other farms in the Valley – we would just have to pick them up. The task force has spoken with art

students about decorating the bins so they will be more recognizable as recycling containers. They are also in the process of writing letters to WalMart to request funding for the purchase of indoor recycling containers. Karla mentioned that Facilities Services contracts with a company to pick up large lots of paper for shredding. She asked Edgar to contact Gary Jones to see about obtaining lock boxes that could be used to store white paper for shredding by this company in convenient locations on campus.



ASC Bottle Cap Mosaic!

Laura reported that the **Composting/Food Task Force** will be working with Audrey Liu to use the teepee greenhouses north of campus for gardening. We'll try to have some fresh produce available for the EARTH week activities to kick off a campaign for use of local foods on campus. The task force also plans to conduct a food waste survey at the campus dining rooms this spring.

Dan reported from the **Transportation Task Force**. There will shortly be 9 bicycles ready for the debut of the Green Bike Program at ASC! (Of course, it would be nice to have weather a bit more conducive to cycling by the time the program is unveiled) The task force is still trying to decide how to administer the program – have students check out bikes with their student ID or just leave them in various locations on campus for use by anyone. Belinda Toth suggested advertising in the paper for donations of old bicycles to boost the number of bikes available.

Kristin reported that the **Communication/Education Task Force** would like to get more Sustainability Tips for the weekly posting. Please send your tips to Katie Silva (kgsilva@adams.edu). The great-looking reusable signs for announcing our meetings have been put up on campus. If you don't have one in your area/building, please contact Katie. Also, if you do have signs in your area, please take responsibility for keeping the date of the next meeting current. Thanks!

Marty reported that the **Water Task Force** could use some new members, and a new leader. Tony Ross, the chair of the task force, has some health issues and will not be able to continue as chair. Monica Perez expressed interest and is considering taking on this role. Any other folks who would like to work on the water task force should contact Marty.

Belinda Toth then suggested that we consider collaborative projects, particularly involving recycling, with severe needs students in middle and high school in the SLV. These students get really excited about contributing to the community and are capable of doing a variety of things. For more information, please contact Belinda at bena84@msn.com.

The discussion then turned to ASC EARTH Week activities. To avoid conflict with final exams, etc., we plan to celebrate EARTH Week from April 14-19. Linda Relyea is thus far the only volunteer for the coordinating committee. We could really use additional members – **PLEASE LET MARTY KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE**. Linda has already prepared a timeline for planning purposes, so we need to start moving on this quickly. The activities thus far being considered include: a live webcast of the National Wildlife Federation's "Campus Chillout" (<http://www.nwf.org/campusecology/>) on Wednesday evening, April 16 at 5 pm; co-sponsorship of the Telluride Film Festival with the Outdoor Program on Friday evening, April 18; unveiling of the Green Bike Program; Reduce/Reuse/Recycle garage sale as a fundraiser on Saturday, April 19; collaborative Solar Expo with the SLV Solar Association also on Saturday – part of the Expo will include a demonstration of solar cooking with Mary Carhartt. Additional activities can include a speaker from the CRES on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evening. Possible speakers and topics are listed at the end of these notes. If you have a recommendation from the list,

please contact Marty ASAP so we can make the necessary arrangements. We're going to try to collaborate with ALMA to bring a concert to the community for one of the evenings. We're hoping to host Mr. Bruce Oreck, founder of the Zero Carbon Initiative (<http://www.zcinitiative.com>) to request that he give a presentation regarding green/sustainable construction. **Each task force was asked to discuss ideas for activities that would encourage maximum participation by students during EARTH Week. Please bring these ideas to the next meeting or give them to Linda (lsrelyea@adams.edu) prior to the next meeting.** Marty will also check with the US Forest Service and BLM to inquire about potential collaboration with those organizations for EARTH Week activities. **EARTH Week is only two months away. Linda's timeline suggests having all our events decided and confirmed in less than a month, so we need to make some rapid progress.**

Lastly, I'd like to ask each task force chair to propose a modest budget to help with your task force activities, either for EARTH week or ongoing activities. I'll then put together a request for funding from AS&F and other sources. I am still trying to find out how to become an "official" body on campus so we can establish an account with the business office.

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH!

The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Tuesday, March 4, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Come ready to flesh out our ideas and volunteer for EARTH Week activities.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 2/10/08

Possible Speakers/Topics from CRES

- Carol Tombari of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL): Big picture energy issues; current research underway at NREL.
- Tim Oliver: Solar technology, including photovoltaics, solar thermal, solar air collectors.
- John Avenson: Renovations of existing homes to increase energy efficiency.