











Minutes/Notes of 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC  
Tuesday, October 7, 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, Mary Jo Martin, Larry Sveum, Georgia Anderson, Stephanie Lewis, Gary Potter, Kailee Potter, Chuck Reel, Ian Hellman, Christine Preiss, Paul Kobe, Neil Rudolph, Elise Rudolph, Maxine Reyes, Erik van de Boogard, Katie Silva, Karla Hardesty, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Rebekah Tirrell, Edgar Thomas, Marty Jones.

**Next regular meeting: Tuesday, November 4 (Election Day!), at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Be sure to vote!**

Announcements and Action Items:


-  The reusable bag sales at the Farmer's Market have come to a close. All together, we sold 79 bags – because ASC Community Partnerships is giving us \$1 for each bag sold, we earned \$79 from this initiative. Thanks to everyone who gave up one or more Saturday mornings during the summer and early fall to sell bags!
-  Thanks to everyone who contributed items or purchased items at our bake sale on the last day of Autumn at Adams. We raised \$150 for our efforts.
-  On October 4, for the ASC Cares Community Plunge Day, 20 volunteers (including members of EARTH, the HPPE club and the Poker club) picked up about 25 bags of trash along the Rio Grande on the north side of our campus. Some of the more novel items included an ASC fiberglass chair, a school crossing sign (complete with 8 ft. steel post), a big section of Astroturf, and an old tire. Thanks to everyone who helped!
-  The City of Alamosa has provided two recycle trailers for our use – one for cardboard and one for plastic, paper, etc. These trailers are located on the north side of campus, adjacent to the ASC Adventure Programs Challenge Course. The city has already dumped the plastics/paper trailer twice and will be picking up the trailers on a regular basis. If you get a chance, please call Don Koskelin, the Alamosa Public Works Director at 589-6631 and tell him thanks for providing this great service!
-  Habitat for Humanity constructed a Can Cottage for us to use on campus, and it is located just south of Computing Services. David Helmuth, projects coordinator for Habitat, is collecting the cans regularly. Please call David and/or Audrey Liu (Habitat Director) at 589-8678 to thank Habitat for their contribution!
-  ASC Community Partnerships is sponsoring a Recycle Expo from November 10-20, 2008. The goal of the expo is to encourage and promote the use of discarded materials for useful and creative products or artwork. Mary Jo is seeking creative folks to display products made from recycled materials – please contact ASC Community Partnerships at 587-8227 if you are interested in participating.
-  As a consequence of our meeting last month, three letters were submitted to the Board of Trustees (via James Trujillo in the President's office) requesting that the Trustees seriously consider working with a solar energy company to bring photovoltaic electricity to campus. At the Board meeting this Friday (October 10), the Trustees will indeed be meeting with a representative from a solar company to discuss negotiations for constructing a 1.3 MW solar electric facility on campus. This will require about 10 acres of land. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting development! Thanks to everyone who submitted a letter or spoke with the administration to promote the use of solar electricity at ASC!
-  **Volunteers were solicited to become part of the committee to plan EARTH week activities for next April. Meetings of this committee should begin prior to the end of this semester.**

**Thus far, two folks (James and Angela Bedard) have volunteered. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Marty ([mbjones@adams.edu](mailto:mbjones@adams.edu)).**


 Maxine Reyes from Sodexo Dining Services and Stephanie Lewis, the Assistant Director of Auxiliary Services/SUB, presented a Trayless Dining Initiative to the group. Basically, this would consist initially of two days a week (Trayless Tuesday/Thursday) that diners in the cafeteria would not use a tray to transport their food/utensils/plates/glasses. Not only would this reduce water, energy, and detergent use (because trays would not have to be washed), but studies have shown that food waste is also reduced because patrons are encouraged to take only the amount of food they can carry. Food costs can be reduced and speed of service can be increased. This sounded very good to the group. Maxine and Stephanie solicited input about how best to educate the cafeteria guests – suggestions included sending out an attribute-based email to the campus highlighting the benefits of trayless dining; having student activists demonstrate trayless dining at a few meals during the week prior to the beginning of the initiative to talk with fellow diners and promote the initiative (if you'd like to volunteer for this activity, please contact Stephanie Lewis at [sslewis@adams.edu](mailto:sslewis@adams.edu) or (719)587-7961); post informational signs at the silverware station to inform diners of the advantages of trayless dining. **If you eat at the cafeteria, please go trayless and let your fellow diners know why you have made that choice.**


#### Task Force Reports

Energy – Cameron reported that the Energy Task Force met last week. As a consequence of the awarding of the Kill-a-Watt meter to Carol Guerrero-Murphy for the best suggestion regarding saving energy during the EARTH week, this task force will begin a “Turn out the lights” campaign on campus. The group has checked with the Print Shop to determine costs for stickers to put up on light switches and rooms requesting that lights be turned out when the room is not in use. Please contact Cameron ([cdmiller@adams.edu](mailto:cdmiller@adams.edu)) if you are willing to help put up some stickers/signs. He'll let you know when the stickers are ready. Other ideas from that EARTH week contest included automatically turning off computers in the open access labs when the labs are not in use. Cameron will pursue that suggestion, but stated that such a recommendation might carry more weight if it came from departments/programs. Please discuss this with your supervisor/department chair/program coordinator to see if s/he would be willing to submit a request for automatic turnoff of computers at night to Computing Services. Additional ideas included installation of light or motion sensing switches for lights (ASC Community Partnerships' new offices have these) and including passive solar/solar water heaters in new construction and renovations. This task force is interested in conducting an audit of energy-consuming devices on campus (lights, refrigerators, space heaters, etc.). This will be an item of discussion at their next meeting. The task force is soliciting energy-saving tips to provide to the Communications/Education task force so that group can continue to put up Sustainability Tips of the Week on the ASC Portal. If you have any tips, please send them to Cameron. Finally, the task force has obtained information regarding usage of natural gas for each building on campus from the past two years, which will serve as a baseline for monitoring savings due to enhanced awareness, improved insulation in renovations and energy standards for new construction.

 Recycling – Christine reported that this task force met a couple of weeks ago. A plan is forming for a significant public awareness campaign during the week leading up to America Recycles Day, which we will celebrate on Friday, November 14. Basically the task force would like for volunteers to begin collecting recyclable plastic and aluminum cans from trash cans on campus on Monday, November 10. Instead of placing these items into the closest recycling container, put them into an EARTH bag (perhaps lined with a plastic grocery bag) and keep them until Friday. Sometime that day, take your collected items to the SUB and put them on a tarp by an EARTH information table. Christine predicts there will be a big mound of recyclable materials! This should make students, staff, faculty, and visitors think twice about discarding recyclable plastic and cans. If you are willing to participate in this venture, please contact Christine ([preissca@adams.edu](mailto:preissca@adams.edu)). This task force is also investigating opportunities for glass recycling and

picking up plastic/cans at basketball games. If you are interested in helping with the latter, contact Dan Carver ([carverd@adams.edu](mailto:carverd@adams.edu)), the driving force for this activity. Last year, Dan and his crew recycled hundreds of plastic bottles from the games and made a nice mosaic from the bottle caps (see notes from the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting).

 Transportation – Christine reported that the Green Bike Program is still seeing significant use this fall. There is always a waiting list to “rent” one of the green bikes. More bikes would be great, so if you have one you’d like to donate, contact Mick Daniel ([mick\\_daniel@adams.edu](mailto:mick_daniel@adams.edu)). Neither Marty nor Mick have heard anything back from the companies they’ve contacted regarding bike donations. Neil mentioned that the campus is short of bike racks (he couldn’t find a place to lock his bike by the SUB for this meeting!). Kristin said that a couple of vendors had contacted her about purchasing bike racks made of recycled material and she would forward that information. (Folks, the recycled bike racks are pretty expensive compared to other options, darn it!) Erik suggested that we might be able to take the racks that were by the front entry to Plachy Hall and use them elsewhere for the time being, then revisit the issue when the renovations to Plachy are completed.

 Edgar reported from the Composting/Local Food task force that all the vegetables have been harvested from the teepee greenhouse, and that it is being prepared for winter.

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

**The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Tuesday, November 12, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. Don’t forget to vote that day!**

Submitted by Marty Jones, 10/12/08