




Minutes/Notes of 17th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, December 2, 2008
Noon, Student Life Center, SUB
<http://www.adams.edu/sustainability> (our website)
<http://ascearth.wordpress.com/> (blog – add a comment!)

Present: Rhonda Schoenecker, Christy Miller, Cameron Miller, James Bedard, Mary Jo Martin, Jeremy Silva, Chuck Reel, Aaron Miltenberger, Audrey Liu, Gary Potter, Kailee Potter, Christine Preiss, Mick Daniel, Neil Rudolph, Jared Beeton, Don Thompson, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Ted McNeilsmith, Edgar Thomas, David Montgomery, Marty Jones.


Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.


Announcements and Action Items:


- Christine reported that the America Recycles Day event on November 14 went well. In the solarium area of the SUB that day was a good-sized pile of bottles and cans, removed from trash cans instead of placed in recycling bins. I've attached a picture that Georgia took of the pile on the last page of these notes. Several students picked up flyers describing the location of recycling bins on campus. Shaun Hayes from Community Partnerships filmed students and their reactions to the pile – this will be aired on KENY sometime in the future. Thanks to all who helped make this activity a success!
- ASC Community Partnerships sponsored the (first annual?) Recycle Expo from November 10-20, 2008. Many objects were on display, ranging from wreaths made from wine corks and plastic bottle lids to handbags made of plastic grocery bags. The EARTH group, led by Cameron Miller, constructed a scale model solar water heater from used 2 liter soda bottles, aluminum cans, and CPVC pipe for the expo (see picture on last page), then on Saturday, Nov. 15, the water heater was tested. I'm pleased to say that the scale model worked very well! We plan to construct a full size heater for EARTH week in April, so please save clear, colorless 2 liter soda bottles for this use. The recycled materials fashion show (featuring three of our EARTH members – Rachel Raguindin, Christine Preiss, and Georgia Anderson – and some of their friends), was a big hit! You can see a picture of the models with their fashions on the Internet at: <http://www2.adams.edu/news/nov0821/nov0821.php>.
- Volunteers (especially among student members) are still being 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, the committee is comprised of James and Angela Bedard, Linda Relyea, Tracy Doyle, Jared Beeton, Jeremy Silva and Marty Jones. I think we have enough faculty and staff members now, but if you are a student or community member and are interested in joining this committee, please contact Marty (mbjones@adams.edu). If you are not able to join the committee, but have some ideas for activities during that week, please contact one of the committee members.
- Last year, EARTH participated in the Focus the Nation event to promote understanding and action with regard to global climate change. There will be another Focus the Nation event (a Town Hall Meeting) on April 18, 2009, and we should again participate in or help organize the event. Stephanie Gonzales has volunteered to assist with Focus the Nation, and if you would also like to help, please contact Marty (mbjones@adams.edu). We'll start planning for this at the beginning of the spring semester
- No news with respect to trayless dining in the cafeteria at the SUB. If you eat at the cafeteria, please go trayless and let your fellow diners know why you have made that choice (saves money via hot water, dish soap, etc.).
- David Montgomery, a member of the Board of Directors of the San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council (SLVEC), shared information about the SLVEC with EARTH. The Ecosystem Council is a lead group for public lands advocacy and environmental activism in the San Luis Valley. To learn more about the Council, check their website, <http://www.slvec.org/>. David wanted to learn more about EARTH and to explore partnership opportunities, particularly with respect to celebration of EARTH Week and Earth Day in the Valley. Welcome, David!

 Audrey Liu told us about a local foods group formed under the auspices of LiveWell Colorado and Liza Marron, the coordinator. There have already been a couple of meetings of this group and if you are interested in learning more about the group, please contact Liza at marronl@vwhs.org or Lurette Frost at Lurette.Frost@UCHSC.edu.

Task Force Reports:

 Energy – Cameron reported that the Energy Task Force is still working on a “Turn out the lights” campaign on campus. Karla is working with the Print Shop to have them make 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) if you are willing to help put up some stickers/signs. This will probably happen next semester. The College is still pursuing a short list of contractors to provide energy audit and analysis services. One potential contractor expressed the opinion that if the College takes advantage of a thermal well already on campus and goes forward with solar-generated electricity, we could eventually approach a neutral carbon footprint (i.e., net zero CO₂ emissions).

 Transportation – Mick reported that there is still significant interest in the Green Bike Program, but the number of working bikes continues to decrease. He has explored the possibility of purchasing bikes from Kristi Mountain Sports and getting training for students to maintain the bikes. Mick stated that there was a bill likely to be presented to AS&F soon for funding to obtain bikes. **UPDATE:** A bill was introduced to AS&F by Georgia Anderson on 12/4 to provide funding for the purchase of 10 bikes and the bill passed! Look for some new bikes in the Green Bike Program next semester!

 Communications/Education/Publicity – Kristin reported that more Sustainability Tips are needed. Please send these tips to Katie Silva (kgsilva@adams.edu).

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

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Submitted by Marty Jones, 12/6/08



Recyclable material “rescued” from trash cans on campus from Nov. 11-14



The soda bottle/pop can solar water heater constructed for the Recycle Expo. The valves in the foreground were added to the heater the next day.