





Minutes/Notes of 19th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
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, James Bedard, Angela Bedard, Mary Jo Martin, Chuck Reel, Gary Potter, Kailee Potter, Christine Preiss, Jared Beeton, Edgar Thomas, David Montgomery, Rebekah Tirrell, Dan Carver, Marie Zanowick, Amanda Atencio, Neil Rudolph, Ted McNeilsmith, Karla Hardesty, Kristin Young Jaramillo, Anna Mianie, Karen Lemke, Lurette Frost, Marty Jones.


Next regular meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.


Announcements and Action Items:



 From the evening of Feb. 11 through Feb. 13 will be the Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit, February 11-13, University of Colorado – Boulder. Marie Zanowick of the US EPA spoke about this opportunity and graciously offered housing and meals for attendees. UPDATE: Chuck Reel registered to attend this summit and will bring back a report at our next meeting.

 Planning meetings for the EARTH week activities, which will be held from **April 13-18** have begun. Committee members include James and Angela Bedard, Linda Relyea, Marty Jones, Tracy Doyle, Jared Beeton, Rachel Raguindin, Mary Jo Martin, and David Helmuth. Tentative events: Monday evening, student variety/talent show with environmental/EARTH themes; Wednesday at noon, forum on local foods; Thursday at 7 pm, concert by local group Rescue Party (Carson Auditorium); Friday afternoon from 2-5, Rio Grande cleanup (come and go during that time); Friday night, MountainFilm from Telluride; Saturday, Recycled T-Shirt fun run/walk/bike, reduce/reuse/recycle garage sale, solar cooking demo, solar water heater demo, lectures on solar and wind energy; Earth Day (April 22), electronics recycling. All during the week, Community Partnerships is sponsoring a high school art show with a theme of Focus on the Earth. Please go see the show! After the meeting, David Montgomery offered another activity for EARTH Week – a “Fat Tire” Tour of the Alamosa Ranch – this might be a good event for Tuesday late afternoon (4-6?). The committee is meeting Monday, Feb. 9 at 4 pm and will continue to meet regularly. If you have additional ideas, please contact Linda Relyea (lsrelyea@adams.edu), the chair of this committee. UPDATE: Linda was able to convince the President to declare Friday, April 17th a Jeans/T-Shirt day and allow employees to help for an hour or two with the river cleanup!






 Focus the Nation (national group dedicated to increasing awareness of and taking action on global climate change) has scheduled a national Town Hall meeting/Teach-In for Saturday, April 18. Thus far, no one at ASC has volunteered to be the lead organizer for this event. If you are interested in taking the lead role on Focus the Nation, please send me an email (mbjones@adams.edu). We may try to fold in the energy talks on Saturday of EARTH Week with Focus the Nation. Cameron will explore with Erik van de Boogaard the possibility of getting a speaker from our Energy Services Contractor to discuss the findings and suggestions from the energy audit on campus on that Saturday as well.

 Trayless dining in the cafeteria is coming on Thursday, Feb. 19! Following that first time, the intent is to have trayless Tuesdays and trayless Thursdays for the next several weeks. Then, if all goes well, beginning April 13, the first day of EARTH Week, the cafeteria will go completely trayless. UPDATE: Rebekah Tirrell and Marty wrote an article describing trayless dining for the South Coloradan, but it didn't get published 2/5. We both hope it is in the paper next Thursday, so students will be aware of the upcoming change. Members of the Food Committee, including Christine Preiss, volunteered to prepare informational signs to put up in the cafeteria.

 The composter grant group (Audrey Liu, Don Thompson, Erwin Young, Laura Thompson, Aaron Miltenberger, Linda Relyea, Cathy Morin, Karl Joliff, Mary Hoffman, and Marty Jones) are continuing to meet to discuss and prepare a proposal to the Colorado Department of Health. At this group's meeting on Jan. 29, Cathy brought forward the possibility of adding a glass crusher to this proposal. UPDATE: At our meeting on Feb. 5, it was decided that we should just focus on the composter(s) for this year, and perhaps pursue a glass crusher next year.

-  Lurette Frost reminded us about the recently formed Local Foods Coalition. This group meets on the first Friday of each month at Valley-Wide Health Systems, 128 Market Street (just north of Alamosa State Bank). All are invited to attend and learn more about local foods. Lurette would like to involve the EARTH group with some of the educational efforts of the coalition. Please contact her at lurette.frost@ucdenver.edu to learn more about this group.
-  Mary Jo reported that three TechnoTrash boxes have been placed around campus for small electronic trash (Diskettes, CDs, & DVDs; Video, Audio & Computer Tapes; Printer Cartridges (all types); Cell Phones, Pagers & PDAs; Laptop Computers; Handheld Devices & Accessories; Rechargeable Batteries; Cables, Cords, Chips & Boards). They are now located in Porter Hall, on the second floor near the Babbage Computer lab; in Richardson Hall, on the second floor near the President's office, and in the Community Partnerships office at the corner of Main and Edgemont. Karla mentioned that her kids' school is also recycling cell phones, and inkjet/laser cartridges as a fundraiser. If you have items to recycle, contact Karla at karla_hardesty@adams.edu.

Task Force Reports:

-  Energy – Cameron reported that the suggestions submitted to him for the campus walkthrough by our Energy Services Contractor (Trane) were forwarded to Erik van de Boogaard, who gave them to Trane. One idea that Trane is considering for the campus is drilling a deep well (3000', into the confined aquifer) for geothermal energy. Stay tuned for more information. Karla brought example "Turn out the Lights" stickers for our energy-saving campaign. More stickers will be available in the near future, and if you are willing to help put them on light switches on campus, please contact Cameron (cdmiller@adams.edu).
-  Recycling – Christine reported that there are now ten 55 gal. drums available for use as outdoor recycling containers. The tops need to be removed. Once that has been done, the drums need to be cleaned and decorated. This is a project that needs to wait for warmer weather. Please contact Christine (preissca@gmail.com) if you are willing to help. Kristen Zagranski, our Sodexo food services director, wanted to do more recycling in the cafeteria, so two plastic trash cans have been placed in the kitchen area for recycling tin cans and plastic bottles. Kailee, Edgar, and Gary are emptying these containers every couple of days or so, and they are also picking up quite a bit of cardboard from the cafeteria!
-  Composting/Local Foods – Besides the grant activity, Edgar reported that the teepee greenhouse would be starting up in March. If you are interested in preparing the ground, planting seeds, etc. in the greenhouse, please contact Edgar (thomaseg@adams.edu) or Laura (moorele@adams.edu).
-  Transportation – Dan showed us the new yellow bikes for the Green Bike program! There are 10 new cruisers available for students, faculty and staff to check out from the ASC Adventure Program office in the SUB. Thanks to AS&F for providing funding and the Adventure Program for providing the checkout and maintenance!
-  Communications/Education/Publicity – Please send "Sustainability Tips" to Katie Silva (kgsilva@adams.edu).

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

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Submitted by Marty Jones, 2/8/09