








Minutes/Notes of 20th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, March 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, Kailee Potter, Christine Preiss, Jared Beeton, Rebekah Tirrell, Dan Carver, Ted McNeilsmith, Kristin Young Jaramillo, Karen Lemke, Rob Benson, Don Thompson, Georgia Anderson, Audrey Liu, Rachel Raguindin, Kerry Sheader, Marty Jones.


Next regular meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Announcements and Action Items:

-  The EARTH Week Committee (James and Angela Bedard, Linda Relyea, Marty Jones, Tracy Doyle, Jared Beeton, Rachel Raguindin, David Helmuth) reported that these events will be taking place during the week of Monday, April 13 – Saturday, April 18: Monday evening, student/staff/faculty variety/talent show with environmental/EARTH themes; Tuesday evening from 5-6:30, Fat Tire Bicycle Tour of Alamosa Ranch, led by David Montgomery (Thanks, David!); Wednesday at noon, forum on local foods, probably in Porter Hall room 130 (Thanks to our local foods group and Lurette Frost!); Thursday at 7 pm, concert by local group Rescue Party in Carson Auditorium; Friday afternoon from 2-5, Rio Grande cleanup (come and go during that time); Friday night, MountainFilm from Telluride in Carson Auditorium ; Saturday (all events at the SUB, either in Carson Auditorium or outside the main west entrance), Recycled T-Shirt fun run/walk; reduce/reuse/recycle garage sale, solar cooking demo, perhaps local food vendors will have food for sale; solar water heater demo; lectures on solar energy, biodiesel, and a report from TRANE on the energy saving measures proposed for ASC; electronics recycling. **If you have clean used T-shirts in good shape that you're willing to donate for the fun run/walk, please bring them to Porter Hall room 144 and leave them for James Bedard. All sizes are welcome. Saturday events will require volunteer assistance, particularly the fun run/walk and electronics recycling. We will also need volunteers to assist with the construction of the full-scale solar water heater, probably the first or second weekend in April. Please contact Marty (mbjones@adams.edu) to volunteer for any or all events/construction.** 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!
-  Trayless dining in the cafeteria has been in existence since Thursday, Feb. 19! Thus far, the initiative seems to be going well. Only a few written complaints have been received by the cafeteria staff, and Kristen Zagranski has replied to those complaints. NOTE: At a “Road Trip” meeting with prospective students on Thursday afternoon, Jared Beeton, Rob Benson, and I talked a bit about EARTH with the students. One of our visitors asked if we were responsible for the Trayless Dining in the cafeteria – she was very positive about trayless dining!
-  **Sodexo is really into sustainability, and they are willing to put their money where their mouth is. Sodexo's regional manager is willing to fund a student sustainability director for 20 hrs a week, as an employee of Sodexo. If you are interested in this position, please contact Kristen Zagranski, Sodexo's general manager at ASC (Kristin.Zagranski@sodexo.com) or Marty (mbjones@adams.edu). After EARTH members have had first chance to apply for this position (about one week), a notice will be posted on Portal for any student on campus to apply.**
-  The composter grant group (Audrey Liu, our leader, Don Thompson, Erwin Young, Laura Thompson, Aaron Miltenberger, Linda Relyea, Cathy Morin, Karl Joliff, Mary Hoffman, and Marty Jones) are in the last stages of proposal preparation. We have data from Sodexo regarding food waste – 236 lbs of trash at lunch (this includes both compostable and non-compostable waste). Kristen mentioned that there was significantly less food waste was noted at lunch on Trayless Tuesday (an observation confirmed by Kerry). The proposal will be submitted prior to spring break, and we anticipate hearing the outcome sometime after May 4.

 Bill Mansheim shared exciting information regarding a new initiative regarding geothermal energy for the campus. ASC is requesting permits to dig two deep and two shallow wells for non-consumptive use. All four wells would be dug adjacent to a new residence hall on Stadium Drive next to Rex Field. One deep well of between 3000-5000 feet would be used to extract geothermal water with a temperature between 120 and 140°F. After heat transfer, the water would be reinjected into the aquifer via another well 2500 ft deep. Two additional wells 60 ft deep would be used to extract and reinject cold water for cooling. **This information is not to be shared widely yet**, but a press release announcing the proposed project should be coming out soon and there is a planned open house to unveil the project on March 23.


 Cameron informed us that 40 acres of land has been donated to the College for use as a site for photovoltaic electricity generation. This land is adjacent to land that will be used for the SLV Regional Medical Center's solar project. The city of Alamosa is working with SunEdison to arrange transmission right-of-way.

 Chuck Reel reported on the Sustainability Summit at CU that he attended for the group. Thanks to Marie Zanowick from EPA for hosting Chuck while he was there! He handed out sample stickers, pamphlets, and corn-based food containers he picked up while he was there. Chuck encouraged students to attend the summit next year and said that he learned a lot. Here's some of what he told us:


- Efficiency and conservation can supply 50 times more energy than we currently import. Just because we have coal doesn't mean we are mandated to use it.
- Denver has the only LEED Certified capital in the nation.
- Local farms are supplying at least one college with its main food supply.
- Recycling seems to have the most interest and Boulder has inmates get one day off their sentence for each day they spend at the recycling center.
- 51% of the nation's electricity comes from coal, currently the least clean fossil fuel.
- Most campuses have an Environmental Center.
- CU in Longmont spends \$175/home to have student energy auditors visit it and install CFL's showerheads, clotheslines, etc


Some of Chuck's suggestions for our campus include:


- Construct an Environmental Center for ASC. We could have the 1st straw bale, adobe, passive solar one built by our own Green Home Design students and volunteers from the community!
- Establish a new student "green fee" of \$5 at the time of registration to fund sustainability projects on campus. Matching funds from other sources should be sought after too.
- If we are successful with the composting grant, have the cafeteria purchase compostable utensils and plates, etc.

 Audrey and Karen announced that there will be two 1 credit hour Habitat for Humanity service learning courses offered in May. One course will be from May 14-16 and the other will be from May 21-23. You'll get hands-on experience with house construction at a house on Pikes Peak and 7th Street. The courses are listed on the summer schedule as ID 179 - Habitat4Humanity Green Home and the CRNs are 10206 and 10208.

Task Force Reports:

 Energy – The "Turn Out the Lights" campaign should be getting underway soon, so if you are willing to help put stickers on light switches on campus, please contact Cameron (cdmiller@adams.edu).

 Recycling – Christine reported that Dana Provence from the Art Department has offered to help cut off the lids from the 55 gal. drums available for use as outdoor recycling containers. Once that has been done, the drums need to be cleaned and decorated. This is a project that will likely take place in April, when warmer weather has arrived. Please contact Christine (preissca@gmail.com) if you are willing to help. Dan reported that the recycling at the basketball games went very well this winter – many plastic bottles were diverted from the trash to our recycling containers! **NOTE: Here's an exciting very recent development – Mary Hoffman has informed us that the Community Partnerships has arranged to recycle plastic lids/caps! Please bring your lids/caps to the Community Partnerships building at the corner of HWY 160 and Edgemont for recycling.**

 Composting/Local Foods – Audrey announced that the Alamosa Community Gardens will be sponsoring a workshop on greenhouses on Tuesday, May 12. More details about this workshop will be forthcoming.

- Transportation – The Green Bike Program (with cool yellow cruisers) is going great! Dan mentioned that there's a waiting list for the bikes, and all 10 bikes are checked out. Christine mentioned that since the program is going so well, AS&F is considering funding another 10 bikes! This could present a problem with storage space, particularly during the summer when fewer students are around to use the bikes. If you know of any space that could be used, please let me know and I'll pass the information on. 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, 3/7/09