










Minutes/Notes of 24th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, July 7, 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, Laura Moore, Linda Relyea, Aaron Miltenberger, Edgar Thomas, Bill Mansheim, Rob Santoro, Mary Jo Martin, Katie Silva, Georgia Anderson, Marty Jones.





Next regular meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Announcements and Action Items:

- Bill Mansheim brought us up to date on the Geothermal and Solar Energy Proposals. A hydrologist has been hired by Rocky Mountain TRANE to assist in the preparation of the geothermal proposal which will be submitted to DOE prior to August 6. Bill was in Washington, DC last week and met with Senators Bennett and Udall and Congressman Salazar. These three are all very much in favor of the geothermal project and may seek stimulus funding. Twelve proposals were received in response to the Solar RFP. Of those twelve, three (SunEdison, Renewable Ventures, and Solar Power) were selected to make on-site visits, which will be held the week of July 15. Whoever of those three are selected will respond to Xcel Energy's RFP to prepare a project for ASC.
- TRANE has been doing energy audits for the past several weeks and we hope to have a final report by the end of this month.
- Lights-out Sticker Campaign: Jeri Chacon and Upward Bound students placed a number of lights-out stickers around campus on June 12. Thanks! They couldn't get into locked rooms, so we still have a bunch of stickers (and will have more by the August meeting – I didn't ask for another run of stickers in time for this meeting, sorry). Several folks took stickers to place in their work areas. After the meeting, Mary Jo suggested that we contact housing to ask if RAs or residents would be willing to put up stickers – a request to that effect has been made to Bruce Deltondo.
- Recycling transfer station area in Richardson Hall: A work order has been submitted by Erik van de Boogaard to clean it out, make sure lights work and provide proper security and access. The room isn't ready quite yet, but progress is being made – after our meeting, I had a query from Jeff Horton regarding keys for the room.
- Speaking of Recycling: Dr. Mark Manzanares, Director of Academic Instructional Technology, has purchased new recycling containers for both the inside and outside of the ES building. Thanks, Mark! Go take a look, and see whether you like them and whether we should use some of our funds to purchase more. The outside containers/bins like the ones Mark purchased are \$260. Please let Marty know (mbjones@adams.edu) if you have an opinion on whether we should buy more of these.
- Bike-to-work day was June 24. At our breakfast station by the Japanese Garden, about 28 folks stopped by. The noon ride around the Alamosa Ranch had 13 riders, several of whom said they'd be doing that ride again.
- Bike-to-Build Fundraiser Ride: Habitat for Humanity is sponsoring a bike ride from Alamosa to La Veta on Sunday, August 2. Ride starts at 7:30 am from the Chamber of Commerce and ends in La Veta. There will be a couple of aid stations along the way and lunch will be provided. You can either ride the train back (make reservations at 877-726-RAIL, \$39-49) or ride a bus back (free). Minimum donation is \$100. For more information, please contact 589-8678 or visit <http://www.slvhabitat.org>.
- The Alamosa Farmers' Market starts this Saturday, July 11. We will again be selling EARTH Bags at the market on days when we have volunteers. Please contact Marty (mbjones@adams.edu) if you would be willing to spend a few hours on a Saturday selling bags.
- EARTH Fundraiser: The 2nd annual ASC Chile Cookoff will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 11-1 (or thereabouts) and we will have a bake sale to raise funds. As last year, products made using local ingredients are encouraged. Please let me know if you're willing to donate items and/or staff the table for an hour or so.

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 Fun Run/Walk: As part of ASC's Welcome Week, we are having our postponed 5k fun run/walk on Saturday, August 29. This is a great opportunity to introduce new and continuing students, staff, faculty and community members to the "Health" part of EARTH. Registration starts at 9 am, run/walk begins at 9:30 am. \$5 gets you a custom t-shirt, drinks/snacks, and a chance at one of 4 fabulous prizes! We'll also have the solar water heater set up for demonstration. Please let me know if you can help with this (mbjones@adams.edu).
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 Orientation: We'll work with the orientation committee to have a booth/table set up at appropriate times during new student orientation and welcome week, to have another opportunity to introduce new folks to EARTH.
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 Electronics Recycling: We hope to have another round of electronics recycling on October 10. Mike Wyatt from Buffalo Peaks indicated that date would work for him. He's checking with the San Luis Valley BOCES and local school districts to ensure he can combine more than one stop on the trip to make it worth his while.
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 Rob Santoro, the Volunteer Program Coordinator at the San Luis Public Lands Center, is seeking volunteers for a number of different activities in our nearby public lands (National Forests, BLM). The first opportunity is actually tomorrow, July 11 – Pulling for Colorado. This is a chance to pull weeds on the National Forest. Please contact Rob at 852-6267 or rob@voc.org. Another chance (this time I'll give you more notice) will come on September 26 (National Public Lands Day). Rob is planning a Trash Cleanup on BLM land in the Valley. As it happens, this is also ASC Cares Day – a good opportunity for EARTH to go outside Alamosa to do a trash cleanup!
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 Katie Silva reported that her daughter has really been enjoying the Alamosa Community Gardens Garden Camp! As a reminder to others, the garden camp is held from 9-noon on Thursday mornings at the Polston Garden. The camp is open to children from 5-10 years of age.
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 In addition to recycling of plastic bottle lids/caps, ASC Community Partnerships is also now collecting used inkjet and laser toner cartridges for recycling.
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 One last note – This will finish my second year as the *de facto* "leader" of the EARTH group, and I would be happy to have someone else assume that role. Please contact me if you are interested.

Task Force Reports:

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 Composting/Local food – Laura reported that some spinach, lettuce and broccoli have been harvested from and that the tomatoes and cucumbers are looking good in the tipi greenhouse at Audrey's house. The garden has now been expanded to an area outside the tipi, and zucchini, pumpkins, and watermelon have been planted. Please contact Laura (moorele@adams.edu) if you are interested in helping with the gardens this summer.
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 Recycling – See announcements in the previous section. Remember – ASC Community Partnerships has arranged to recycle plastic lids/caps! Please take your lids/caps to the Community Partnerships building at the corner of HWY 160 and Edgemont for recycling.
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 Water – Julie Waechter has investigated the second phase of the irrigation project and found that ASC doesn't have the funds to implement this second phase (sensors for more efficient watering). Edgar attended a community forum sponsored by ASC concerning the new residence hall a couple of weeks ago and brought forward EARTH's concerns about landscaping and water use.
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 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, 7/10/09