



Minutes/Notes of 12th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, August 5, 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, Erik van de Boogaard, Ted McNeilsmith, Audrey Liu, Aaron Miltenberger, Jesus Altamirano, Kyli Kehler, Edgar Thomas, Rachel Raguindin, Mick Daniel, Morgan Ramsey-Daniel, Jared Beeton, Neil Rudolph, Elise Rudolph, Larry Sveum, Linda Relyea, Amanda Atencio, William Allen, James Bedard, Marty Jones.








Lighting Decals

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, September 1, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. At that meeting, we'll set a schedule for regular meetings during the 2008-9 academic year


Announcements and Action Items:

- There were 4 walkers and 5 bicyclists that represented EARTH at the 4th of July parade in Alamosa. We handed out 200 sustainability handbills to parade watchers.
- We've sold 37 reusable bags at the Alamosa Farmer's Market. Thanks to Julie, Morgan, Diana, and Linda for their efforts so far, and to Rachel, Edgar, Katie, Kristin, and Christine for their efforts in the future. ASC Community Partnerships is giving us \$1 for each bag we sell, so our funds have grown by \$37 as a result of the bag sales.
- The City of Alamosa is in the process of preparing some recycling containers for ASC. For a trial to determine the volume of recyclable materials we're going to generate, the containers will be mounted on a trailer for ease of transport by the city. The present plan is to place the trailers on the north end of campus, in the general vicinity of the Challenge course. Mick raised a concern that the area around the recycling containers could get trashy, and suggested that perhaps a different location, more central to the campus (hence more convenient for students), would be a better choice. The ASC police department and Facilities Services will need to be consulted before a final location is chosen. Erik spent time this afternoon scouting out some locations.
- Four 55 gal steel barrels have been obtained from Kyli Kehler and the Model UN, Agribusiness Club, and Tri-Beta for use as outdoor recycling containers. We're going to have an initial work day on Sunday, August 10 starting at 1 pm to sand, then paint the barrels (dark green base with splashes of color and the universal recycle symbol) and to construct simple "cottages" to house the barrels. Neil, Elise and I toured the apartments and faculty drive housing area to find appropriate sites for the barrels. We'll check with Bruce DeTondo before final placement. Elise and Neil will prepare some plans for the construction. Thus far, the volunteers include Neil, Elise, Edgar, Linda, Amanda, Rachel, Larry, and Marty. If you're interested in helping, please meet on the west side of Porter Hall (Science and Math building), toward the north end Sunday, August 10 at 1 pm. Tools, gloves, masks, paint, and other materials will be provided – all you need to bring is a willing attitude!
- Audrey Liu reported that Habitat for Humanity has constructed two aluminum can cottages available for the campus. We just need to identify locations where they can be placed. One of the cottages has not yet been painted, so if you have a creative side, contact Audrey to find out about customizing the cottage. In the meantime, we'll work with Facilities Services and the ASC Police department to find appropriate homes for the cottages.
- Shirley Atencio asked whether EARTH would like to participate in the ASC Cares project. This consists of a Volunteer Fair (Wed., Oct. 1 from 10 am - 1:30 pm) and the Cares Day community plunge (Sat., Oct. 4). We can design our own project, and one suggestion was to conduct a trash pickup along the Rio Grande. If you're interested, and have some other ideas, please let me know (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll pass on the information to everyone on the mailing list.
- The ASC Club Fair will be held on Thursday, August 28 (note that this is a different date from the August 22nd day that has been mentioned previously). We think the time for the fair will be mid-day (perhaps from 11-2 or thereabouts). If you don't have class or other responsibilities during that time and

could spend an hour talking up the EARTH group, please let me know (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll make sure you get some information to pass out and the EARTH banner to hang at the table.

-  We decided not to participate in the Farmer's Market in La Jara. The Valley Food Coop will be participating (at least on an irregular basis) and has volunteered to take some of the ecobags to that event. We won't make any money from the sales, but at least people will be able to replace plastic bags with reusable bags!
-  On Saturday, September 20, the Autumn@Adams events will include a sheepdog exhibition, green chile cook-off, and other fun events. The EARTH group will have a bake sale that day from 10-2 as a fundraiser. Many of you have already volunteered to participate, and I'll send out reminders as that date gets closer.
-  Undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in reducing the college's carbon footprint can apply for a fellowship grant from the Campus Ecology program of the National Wildlife Federation. The application deadline is October 1, 2008. For more information, see <http://www.nwf.org/fellows>.
-  Mary Hoffman from Community Partnerships may be able to provide an Americorps volunteer half-time to work as a coordinator for the EARTH group. More information yet to come.
-  After the meeting, Aaron shared some good news about the Alamosa Bus Company. He's been working with Julie Nunley and has been able to arrange for semester-long bus passes for students, staff, and faculty for \$35. With the pass, you can get unlimited rides on the Alamosa Bus (throughout the Valley, not just in Alamosa). The passes should be available at new student orientation and at the club fair. Sounds like a great deal! Thanks, Aaron.
-  The group voted to authorize spending up to \$150 from our funds to purchase a cart/wagon for hauling recyclable materials around campus so our work-study students don't have to carry all the bags by hand. A quick Internet search revealed both 2-wheel and 4-wheel carts that might be suitable. I'll look around in town to see what might be available also.
-  At the July meeting, one thing that was briefly discussed was the purchase of stickers to put on light switches requesting that the lights be turned off when not in use. Facilities Services does not have funds available for such a purchase, so if we think that is important, we'll need to order or create our own. Here is a website with some examples: <http://www.awarenessideas.com/Energy-Conservation-Lightswitch-Lighting-Decals-s/259.htm>.

Task Force Reports

-  Energy – Cameron is still waiting for Carol Guerrero-Murphy to get together with Linda and/or Julie to arrange for publicity about her Kill-a-Watt meter prize for the best suggestion regarding saving energy during the EARTH week contest. The energy task force has prepared a spreadsheet and accompanying graphs that depict natural gas use for each building on campus for 2006 and 2007. This should help provide a baseline for comparison in subsequent years, particularly for new and renovated buildings. You can access the data and view the graphs at <http://faculty.adams.edu/~cdmiller/asc-energy/ASC-Building-Heat-btu-dd-sqft.pdf>. Thanks, Cameron. Edgar asked about a "kill" switch for the open-access computer labs, and Cameron reported that it is still being investigated.
-  Transportation – Mick reported that the Green Bike Program is still seeing significant use this summer. However, as expected, some of the bikes are being mistreated and require repair. At some time in the future, more bikes, space, and personnel will likely be needed for the program. If you'd like to volunteer to help with bike repair/upkeep, please contact Mick (mick_daniel@adams.edu).

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Tuesday, September 2, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 8/5/08