




















Minutes/Notes of 26th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, September 1, 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, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Larry Sveum, Audrey Liu, Bailey Jones, Dan Carver, Leslie Lopez, C.J. Van Haveren, Rebekah Tirrell, Jared Beeton, James Bedard, Karen Lemke, Kayla Reamey, Neil Rudolph, Rob Santoro, Larry Mortensen, Ben Shenk, Michelle Little, Trevor Hassler, Julie Waechter, Rachel Raguindin, Eric Lutringer, Emily Lutringer, Jesse Russell, Marty Jones.




Next regular meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Announcements and Action Items: Great turnout today, folks! I hope you all get involved with one of our task forces. Please see the task force section below for contact information.


-  The EARTH Recycled T-Shirt 5K Fun Run/Walk was held on Saturday, August 29 and it was quite successful. 32 folks ran or walked and all involved (volunteers and participants) had a good time! The consensus was that we should make this an annual event. Thanks to James and Angela Bedard for organizing, and to everyone else who helped!
-  Kat Olanec, our liaison for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC, <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>), couldn't be present, but sent this update: The Greenhouse Gas Emissions report that is due on September 15 is coming along. By May of 2010, ASC must submit a Climate Action Plan that contains concrete plans for reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. Kat is forming a committee to develop the plan. Current members include Mary Hoffman, Ted McNeilsmith, and Diana Wenzel. Students are especially encouraged to join this committee. Please contact her (kholance@adams.edu) if you are willing to serve on this important committee.
-  Erik van de Boogaard couldn't join us today because he is meeting with Trane (our Energy Services Consultant) regarding phase I of the technical services audit, which is likely to focus on lighting retrofits and phase II, the geothermal energy project. He will be able to provide additional information about the audit at the next meeting. In the meantime, Julie Waechter had a few highlights to share:
 -  The study found the campus could reduce electric usage by 20% by replacing 14,000 light fixtures on campus. Electric use management -- turning off equipment/facilities when not in use -- can further reduce peak usage, creating additional cost savings recommendations that could save the college more than \$100,000 a year.
 -  Installation of water-saving plumbing fixtures can reduce campus water use (currently more than 19 million gallons a year) by about 40 percent. Neil pointed out that reducing our watering of the grass (and incorporating more xeriscaping) could likely save an even greater amount.
 -  The Sun Edison solar proposal found ASC can convert 25 percent of its 8 megawatt annual electricity usage to renewable (solar) sources.
 -  The cost of these improvements would be made up for in energy savings over 20 or so years. These sustainable efforts would negate additional energy consumed by the new Residences at Rex and Community Building under construction.
-  Kristin informed us that the SunEdison/Excel Energy photovoltaic project is moving forward, and that Gary Jones would be involved in this project.
-  Larry Mortensen, the Athletic Director at ASC, asked for suggestions from the group for “green” projects with which our student-athletes could get involved. Either bring your ideas to the next meeting or send your ideas to Larry at ismorten@adams.edu. It's great to have our student-athletes interested in sustainability!
-  Lights-out Sticker Campaign: A quick survey during the meeting suggests that we need more stickers, so I ordered more this morning (9/2). Thanks for your help putting these up on campus! One of the attendees (sorry, I don't know the name of the young woman) told us about a “Day of Darkness” at her former school and she'll pursue this further with the Energy Task Force.

-  Recycling transfer station area in Richardson Hall: We should be moving into this area in another week or so.
-  Trayless Dining: Yea! Trayless dining has been in place since the beginning of the semester! Please thank Kristen Zagranski and her crew at the cafeteria for taking this very visible sustainability initiative. We will save significant energy, water, and soap costs while reducing food waste by not using trays in the cafeteria. If you dine in the cafeteria, be sure to mention how pleased you are that we have joined other progressive schools in trayless dining.
-  EARTH Fundraiser: The 2nd annual ASC Chile Cookoff will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 11-2 and we will have a bake sale to raise funds. As was the case last year, you are encouraged to use local items in your baked goods. Last year, this was quite successful (plus you get to taste some great green chile!), so let's have another super event this year! So far, we've had one confirmed volunteer for both food and working at the table. Please send me an email (mbjones@adams.edu) if you're willing to volunteer to provide treats and/or staff the table for an hour or so between 11 am and 1 pm.
-  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. No update from Mike yet – stay tuned.
-  ASC Cares Day is Saturday, September 26. As it turns out, that day is also National Public Lands Day. Last year, EARTH participated in ASC Cares Day by cleaning up the riparian zone along the Rio Grande north of campus. We will again sponsor that project. If you are interested, please meet by Richardson Hall before 9 am to get food and drink, then walk to the Rio Grande by the softball diamond and begin picking up trash. The project will last until noon. Please wear old clothing – gloves and trash bags will be provided. If you'd like to go farther afield, Rob Santoro, the Volunteer Program Coordinator at the San Luis Public Lands Center, has another good project for EARTH members – cleanup of a dump site that is on BLM lands southeast of Manassa (near a wilderness study area). For this project, please meet at the Manassa Junior High School at 8 am. This project will continue until about 2 pm. Lunch will be included and gloves, trash bags, etc. will be provided. For more information about either project, please check the ASC Cares Day website - <http://www.adams.edu/community/asccares/>.
-  Goals/Activities: Please be thinking about goals and activities to achieve those goals for next year. That will be the main focus of our next meeting. To get your creative juices flowing, here are some possibilities: America Recycles Day; Campus Chill-out; Recycle Mania; EARTH Week and Earth Day (possibly in conjunction with the Grizzly Activity Board); expansion of Green Bikes and bike-to-work days, working to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags on campus and in Alamosa, “Carrotmob” (a reverse boycott; see <http://carrotmob.org/>) at City Market with EARTH bags to let City Market know that we really appreciate their sustainability efforts; work closely with the new construction to make “greener” landscaping choices, acquiring a composter, working with the cafeteria/Sodexo on sustainability initiatives, new EARTH director, etc.....
-  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:

-  Energy – Cameron Miller (cdmiller@adams.edu) is the task force chair. Cameron reported that several initiatives are saving energy in the computer labs, including auto shutdowns at night, forced shutdowns after a certain period of inactivity (still a few bugs in this system, but they are being addressed), and introduction of some Linux “Thin Clients” – computers with no hard drive, so less energy is used. This group will meet soon to go over the Technical Energy Audit from Trane and discuss a campaign to notify Facilities Services of issues that waste energy, water, etc. – please contact Cameron if you'd like to be a part of this group.
-  Composting/Local food – Laura Moore (moorele@adams.edu) reported that tomatoes are finally starting to ripen and that pumpkins and zucchini are doing great!. Please contact her () if you are interested in learning more about local foods and composting.
-  Recycling – Bailey Jones (baileyj169@hotmail.com) is the new task force chair for this group. She will be arranging a meeting of this group soon, so please contact her if you'd like to join this active group. Dan

Carver announced that the new ASC Climbing Club is interested in helping with recycling at sporting events, so there will now be recycling at more than just basketball games. Thanks, Climbing Club!

 Transportation – Mick Daniel (mick_daniel@adams.edu) is the task force chair for this group. If you'd like to be involved in projects that can help reduce our carbon footprint by employing alternative methods of transportation, please contact Mick. We now have 15 Green Bikes, thanks to AS&F and LiveWell Alamosa. Check them out! Speaking of bikes, we have a pressing need for more bike racks on campus for the increased bicycle traffic. If you're so inclined, please send an email request for more bike racks to me (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll forward them to the appropriate individuals on campus. Action is part of our name – let's take some action!

By now you may have received an email from Kat Olance requesting your participation in a campus survey regarding transportation. If not, follow these links and please complete the survey. There are different surveys for staff, faculty, and students – please select the appropriate one to complete.

Staff:


<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/adams.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dF9kejJCUzBBMEI6bGw0TG8zYzhQcWc6MA..>

Faculty:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/adams.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dGYxb2lCY3lXVGg5OUd0OERuRUZtcnc6MA..>

Students:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/adams.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dFVid2hURHNKczNyR3hwZFN5TkVEQ1E6MA>

 Communications/Education/Publicity – Katie Silva (kgsilva@adams.edu) is the task force chair for this group. If communication is your thing, please contact Katie.

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH!

The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 9/2/09