















Minutes/Notes of 14th Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, September 2, 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, Mary Jo Martin, Renee Harris, Gary Potter, Kailee Potter, Christine Preiss, Georgia Anderson, Paul Kobe, Kerry Sheader, Karen Lemke, Zaineb Lyons, Ted McNeilsmith, Audrey Liu, Edgar Thomas, Mick Daniel, Morgan Ramsey-Daniel, Marty Jones.




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

Announcements and Action Items:

-  We've sold more than 60 reusable bags at the Alamosa Farmer's Market. Thanks to Julie, Morgan, Diana, Linda, Rachel, Edgar, Katie, Kristin, and Christine for their efforts so far. ASC Community Partnerships is giving us \$1 for each bag we sell, so our funds have grown by more than \$60 as a result of the bag sales.
-  Two sheds and four barrels for recycling were constructed Aug 10-11 through the efforts of several EARTH members. They are now in place by the dumpsters on the south end of Faculty Drive and the dumpsters at the north end of the student apartments. Thanks to everyone who participated in this project!
-  A new recycle cart was purchased from Big R of Alamosa for \$81.
-  We haven't yet received the recycling containers from the city. Marty will wait until September 5 before contacting Don Koskelin from the Public Works department of Alamosa to learn more about the containers.
-  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>. One suggestion for use of grant funds was to increase the number and quality of bikes for our Green Bike program. If you're interested in applying, please do so soon.
-  At the club/major fair, 21 new folks signed up to get information about EARTH.
-  We're waiting to hear from Erik van de Boogaard regarding placement of the "Can Cottage" on campus for Habitat for Humanity. Once we get the go-ahead, we'll coordinate with Audrey Liu to move the cottage onto campus. NOTE: I just heard from Erik, and the cottage will be placed south of Computing Services, a good central location. Thanks to Facilities Services for their help!
-  We agreed to participate as a group in the ASC Cares project which consists of a Volunteer Fair (Wed., Oct. 1 from 10 am - 1:30 pm) and the Cares Day community plunge (Sat., Oct. 4 from 7-4). One major project will be to conduct a trash pickup along the Rio Grande. Another project will be to decorate and outfit more outdoor recycle barrels for the campus and the community (after all, it's a COMMUNITY PLUNGE). **We'll need volunteers to staff the table at the volunteer fair and to work on the projects. Please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu) with your preference(s) for participation.**
-  The EARTH group will have a fundraiser bake sale on Saturday, September 20 from 10-1 as part of Autumn@Adams. Tracy Doyle had a good suggestion that we try to use local/regional ingredients (honey, wheat, fruits/veggies, etc.) for the goods we sell. Also, if you do use local foods, please list what they are and where you got them on an index card. **I'll coordinate volunteers to staff the table and items that will be provided – just let me know by September 17 when you'd like to volunteer and/or what you plan to bring.**

-  On August 21, an article in the Valley Courier stated that the Alamosa School District has entered into negotiations with SunEdison to construct a 700-900 kW photovoltaic solar electric facility on the land just south of the Alamosa High School. Folks, if you've been a member of EARTH since last fall, you may remember that such a facility had been mentioned as a possibility for Adams State College as well. Unfortunately, it has not come to fruition yet, even though (1) there are suitable sites on College-owned land north of campus and on the roofs of several campus buildings, (2) SunEdison would provide the up-front construction/installation costs as long as the College would agree to a 20 year lease, (3) the cost per kWh would be less for the solar-generated electricity than we currently pay from EXCEL, and (4) we'd go a long way toward helping to meet the Climate Commitment agreement that President Svaldi signed last winter. **It's time for ACTION!** We can make a difference by raising our voices in unison to the Board of Trustees. There are several avenues for us to pursue: (1) You can write a short email to Mr. James Trujillo, Executive Assistant to the President/Board of Trustees (james_trujillo@adams.edu) using the template given on the last page of these notes to express your desire to see ASC join the forefront of progressive institutions utilizing carbon-footprint-reducing energy sources; (2) We'll ask James to put this topic on the agenda for the next Board meeting that takes place in Alamosa (October 10) and you can come to provide visible support for this project; (3) If we do not get on the agenda, each Board meeting provides a period of time for public comment and you can sign up to speak for three minutes on behalf of a solar photovoltaic project on campus.
-  Mary Jo Martin, a new Americorps volunteer with ASC Community Partnerships, informed us of pertinent projects that are being coordinated by the Community Partnerships. From November 13-15, there will be a Recycled Products Expo highlighting creative uses of recycled materials on campus. Also in the works is the preparation of a waste quilt, with patches made from materials that can't currently be recycled in Alamosa (e.g., lids from plastic containers, chipboard, glass). The intent of this project is to educate children/students/community members about what we throw away and hopefully to change some purchasing habits. The creative members of EARTH can certainly contribute to this quilt! Finally, ASC Community Partnerships have purchased three "technotrash" boxes that can be filled with electronic/computer items that otherwise would be tossed – by putting them in the technotrash boxes, they'll be sent to a company for recycling. In the very near future, the boxes should be placed in strategic locations on campus. Please, no large monitors, etc. – those should go to Computing Services. Instead, fill the technotrash boxes with old diskettes, mice, keyboards, etc.
-  At the faculty/staff meeting prior to the beginning of the semester, we were told the irrigation project is finished. We just wanted to ask if that included the new controls to prevent watering during times when the ground is already soaked or when it's raining outside. I'll contact Erik for further information.

Task Force Reports

-  Energy – Cameron reported that the Energy Task Force will soon begin meeting regularly, now that the semester has started. The photograph of Carol Guerrero-Murphy receiving her Kill-a-Watt meter prize for the best suggestion regarding saving energy during the EARTH week contest has been taken by Linda Relyea. Linda will prepare publicity for the prize and prize-winner.
-  Recycling - Christine reported that this active task force will also start meeting regularly now that the semester is underway. If you're a member or would like to join with this group, please contact Christine (preissca@adams.edu) and watch your email for meeting announcements.
-  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). Marty and Mick have contacted a couple of companies to inquire about donations of bicycles for the Green Bike program, and more will be contacted in the near future (including FreeWheelin', the organization that provided bikes for the Democratic and

Republican National Conventions). ASC Student Life, largely through the efforts of Aaron Miltenberger, have arranged for unlimited-use bus passes on the Alamosa Bus Company for \$35/semester. Mick is now negotiating for more student/staff/faculty friendly routes and times. Stay tuned!

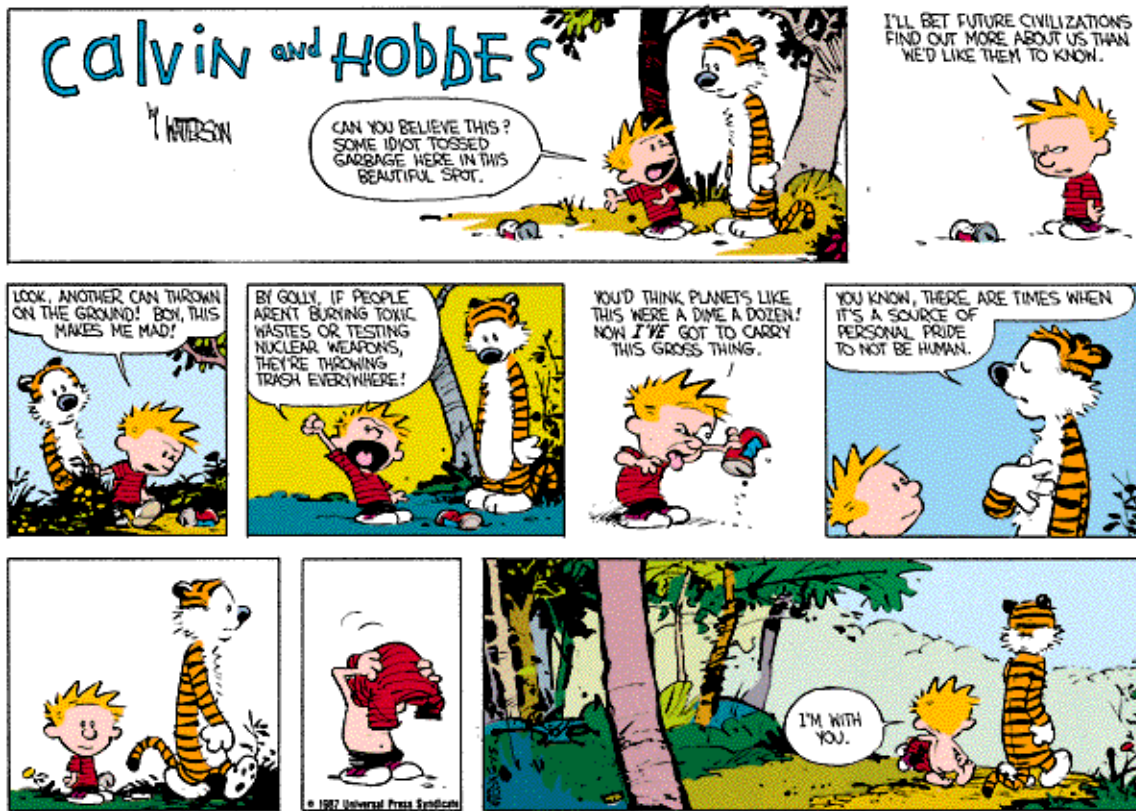
We ran out of time before much could be discussed regarding planning for this year. Ideas that were mentioned included participation in America Recycles Day, Recyclemania, Campus Chill Out; partnering with various groups to bring in informational speakers about climate change, energy, and other topics; hosting presentations from political candidates or their representatives to learn where the candidates stand on sustainability issues; mobilizing volunteers to put stickers on light switches; hold another EARTH Week celebration in April of 2009. **Task force chairs, when you hold your first meeting of the semester, please include some time for planning with your group and come to the next meeting with concrete suggestions for this year. If you can also include a budget, that would help in our overall planning.**

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH.

The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Tuesday, October 7, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 9/7/08

For those of you who remember Calvin and Hobbes, this is one of my favorite cartoons!



Here's a sample letter to send to the Trustees regarding solar photovoltaic electricity on campus. Feel free to personalize/modify it (but, please keep the letter respectful – remember that old saying that you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar – there, I've shown my age again!). Send the letter to James Trujillo ((james_trujillo@adams.edu)) with a subject line of Solar Electricity for the Trustees. He'll compile the letters and forward them to the Trustees.

Dear Trustees Walters, Lamm, Bachicha, Darricades, Montoya, Oreck, Rice, Scoggin, Valdez, Armstrong, and Martin:

Thank your for your dedication and service to Adams State College. I am writing as a member of the EARTH (Environmental Action for Resources, Transportation, and Health) sustainability group that was formed on our campus in September, 2007. As a resident of Alamosa and a concerned citizen, I was pleased to learn (from an article in the Valley Courier on August 21, 2008) that the Alamosa School District has entered negotiations with SunEdison to build a 700-900 kW photovoltaic solar electric facility on the grounds south of the high school. However, as a campus (or community – depending on which you are) member, I am disappointed that Adams State College is not actively pursuing similar negotiations. We have space, either on land the college owns north of the existing campus or on rooftops of several campus buildings, that could be used for generation of electricity via photovoltaic collectors. In meetings of EARTH last fall, we were informed that ASC would be seeking an RFP for a solar electric facility in the spring. To my knowledge, that has not yet happened.

I encourage you at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees to approve a plan to bring on-site solar-generated electricity to Adams State College. This would not only help to meet some of the obligations that the College agreed to when President Svaldi signed the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, but it would also be a good recruiting tool to bring more students to Adams State College.

Thank your for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your name and affiliation here