

Minutes/Notes of 3rd Meeting on Sustainability – The **EARTH** Group at ASC
Friday, October 26, 2007
Noon, Student Life Center, SUB

Present: Ashley Fowler, Courtney Jones, Cheryl Ravens, Gary Jones, Kristin Young Jaramillo, Mick Daniel, Dan Carver, Michelle Reed, Erika McNulty, Morgan Ramsey Daniel, Ted McNeilsmith, Christy Miller, Tony Ross, Laura Moore, Katie Silva, Chris Olance, Kat Olance, Stephanie Gonzales, Karla Hardesty, Marc Eaton, Paul Kobe, Jennifer Ribar, Christine Preiss, Laura Bruneau, Mark Blagen, Erwin Young, and Marty Jones

Next meeting: Thursday, November 8, at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB (just in case you don't see the notice on the second page)

The meeting started with a discussion of possible names for our august group. Among the suggestions were Green Map, Achieving a Sustainable Campus (ASC), Environmental Awareness of Resources, Transportation, and Health (EARTH), ASC Generating Real Efforts for the Environmental Network (ASC GREEN), and Sustained Effort. A vote was taken, and EARTH was chosen as the name. A suggestion was made that the **A** also include Action, not just Awareness. The Communication task force had already prepared a great logo for EARTH and now will modify it to incorporate Action.

Individual task forces then reported on their meetings/activities. Ted McNeilsmith reported that the **Recycling Task Force** had just met and arranged to have regular meetings on Fridays at noon. The first meeting will be Friday, November 2. Although a chair had not been selected, Christine Preiss agreed to be the “temporary chair” for this first meeting. Tony Ross reported that the **Water Task Force** is looking for additional members. The focus of the group will be on campus use of water. This task force will be meeting with Gary Jones from Facilities Services to get current information on ASC’s use of water and planned changes. Karla Hardesty reported that the **Energy Task Force** had selected Cameron Miller as the chair. This group developed the “Lights Out” sustainability tip placed on Portal. Future plans include determining the energy use per square foot of campus buildings in order to identify which buildings are most energy efficient. Look for other sustainability tips of the week to come from this group, also. Karla asked for students to join this group. (Note: one student joined this group after the meeting) Mick Daniel reported from the **Transportation Task Force**. Although the group had not yet met, Jordan and Dan had been actively “wrenching” on bicycles and now have three bikes ready for the Green Bike Program. One of the bikes was set up in the Student Life Center for our perusal – cool green paint job! Many details need to be worked out, including obtaining more bicycles, helmets, locks, tools and stands; space for storage of and working on the bikes; and getting volunteers to maintain the bikes. Mick said he was initially thinking of a “Bike Library”, from which bikes could be checked out for 14 days, but that other models of green bike programs exist. Suggestions from attendees included checking with the Alamosa Police and Sheriff Departments to see if they have bikes available; partnering with the City of Alamosa and/or businesses in the city to obtain more bikes; holding a “Bike Drive” on campus and in the community to obtain usable bikes; seeking grant funds from health organizations (Valley-Wide, SLV Regional Hospital, etc.) that could be used to support this program. Obviously, this task force will be busy! (Note: The Transportation group, with new members, met right after our general meeting, and Mick agreed to chair the task force) Katie Silva reported that she had volunteered to chair the **Communication/Publicity/Education Task Force**. This task force submitted the winning name for our sustainability group! She requested that other task forces send “Sustainability Tips” to their task force for posting on Portal. They will do publicity for other task forces, including press releases, posters, etc. and are going to try to develop a web presence for EARTH at ASC. Katie asked for students to join the group, since communication with our students is somewhat challenging. Suggestions from students in attendance included establishing groups on MySpace, Facebook, and Google as well as putting up posters and signs on campus. (Note: Four students joined this group after the meeting) Laura Moore, who volunteered to chair the **Composting/ Food Task Force**, reported that this group had met and was exploring several ideas, including use of greenhouse space for raising vegetables (likely from Audrey Liu’s teepee greenhouses north of the practice football field); conducting “garbology” surveys of food waste on campus; increasing use of locally-grown foods on campus; using compostable poly(lactic acid) cups/straws/containers; cost of commercial composters; possible use of food waste as animal feed for local farmers.

America Recycles Day is scheduled for November 15. We should be getting posters to promote this day from the Colorado Coordinator. The Recycling Task Force will take the lead role to organize some activity on campus for this day, but everyone in the EARTH group is asked to contribute ideas, volunteer some time, etc. Please send your ideas to Marty (mbjones@adams.edu) and he'll distribute them to the appropriate folks.

Stephanie Gonzales asked this group to consider endorsing the Buy Nothing Day, scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving. More information will be forthcoming about this day. Marty brought up a request from Marianna King with respect to establishing a SEAC (Student Environment Action Coalition) chapter on campus. Students in attendance seemed lukewarm to the idea, at least as far as becoming a formally recognized club on campus. If you are interested in more information regarding SEAC, please contact Marianna King (marianna_king@adams.edu).

Mick suggested that task forces discuss budgets (modest) at their next meetings. Chairs could then get together to put forward a request to AS&F to secure some funding for EARTH activities.

The next meeting of the EARTH group at ASC will be on Thursday, November 8 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB. In addition to updates from the task forces, please come with ideas for America Recycles Day events.

Submitted by Marty Jones, 10/28/07

Task Force Members (as of 10/26/07)

- **Communication/Publicity/Education:** Katie Silva (Chair), Linda Relyea, Julie Waechter, Morgan Ramsey Daniel, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Cameron Miller, Ashley Fowler, Jennifer Ribar, Courtney Jones, Christine Preiss
- **Composting/Food:** Laura Moore (Chair), Morgan Ramsey Daniel, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Mary Hoffman, Coreena Bower, Marty Jones
- **Energy:** Cameron Miller (Chair), Christy Miller, Gary Jones, Katie Hagaman, Karla Hardesty, Erwin Young, Ashley Fowler, Chris Olance, Kat Olance
- **Recycling:** Ted McNeilsmith, Mick Daniel, Erica McNulty, Michelle Reed, Christine Preiss, Karla Hardesty, Chris Olance, Jennifer Ribar, Courtney Jones, Katie Hagaman, Margery Herrington, Kyli Kehler, Armando Valdez (Chair still to be determined at this time)
- **Transportation:** Mick Daniel (Chair), Cheryl Ravens, Mark Blagen, Jordan Hudson, Dan Carver, Marty Jones
- **Water:** Tony Ross (Chair), Zena Buser, Julie Waechter