**Sustainability Environmental Action Committee**

**Next meeting: TBA**

**Agenda**

* Introductions
* Green Club Leaders Presentation
* Spring Presentation to the Board
* Dorm composting: information: brochure, meeting up.

**Minutes April 28th, 2015**

(Present: Brock Rasmussen, Julie Benda, Michael Baker, Pam Newsome-Prochniak, Greg Talmo, Nate Lutz, Mercedes Knapp, Tom Milbrath)

(Absent: Cindy Gilbert, Brett Smith, Jerry Allan, Laura Link, David Yale)

**New Business**

1. **4/28/5-** Mercedes Knapp updated committee on Garden Club garden boxes. The five beds will are built, leveled, and placed in the northeast corner of the south parking lot, near student housing and bike racks. The beds will be filled with a 50/50 compost soil mix that will be delivered on the upcoming Saturday. The committee acknowledged Mercedes' initiative and planning process, for both the Facilities and Student Union proposals she put together. The committee also requested some sort of branding to occur around the garden beds, as well as signage for the rest of the MCAD community to identify it by. Mercedes also provided the committee with a brief description of the plants intended, including: bee-friendly flowers, herbs, vegetables, edible flowers, and possibly strawberries.
2. **4/28/5-** Julie Benda informed committee that the previously specified film class would not be creating a composting PSA. Instead, Julie will be in touch with students from the Green Club to have a video for next semester, as well as Green Club members being stationed at the composting bins in the cafeteria for the first few weeks of each semester. Nate Lutz and Michael Baker both brought up the possibility of a video played during orientation so students could be introduced to the concept and details right away. Michael Baker mentioned a video that is available on the Hennepin county website that explains what can be composted, as something to play in lieu of a student made PSA. Nate, Michael and Julie will continue to discuss ways of clarifying the compost and recycling issue and implement necessary steps next semester.
3. **4/28/5-** Michael Baker recapped Recyclemania 2015. No great jumps from previous years. 12th out of 233 participants diverting 4100 tons of material from the waste stream. The committee recognized this as being a very good standing and it will continue to be recorded on the SEAC intranet site. Michael notes that in order to reduce waste much more, product decisions would have to be made. Certain materials such as polystyrene could be recycled as well if the school purchased the appropriate collection bins from the county.
4. **4/28/5-** The committee reviewed the goals and accomplishments sheet attached. Goals included preparing for a spring presentation to MCAD’s board. Brock Rasmussen suggested making a video for the presentation, and Julie Benda volunteered to get ahold of graduate student Robert Gooding for help in that department. The goals also included using the GA position to stay highly engaged with the student group Green Club, in order to maintain momentum and gain support for next years initiaves and projects.
5. **4/28/5-** Pam Newsome suggested reviewing STARS report in order to gain awareness of additional initiatives the committee could easily tackle.
6. **4/28/15-** Michael Baker announces his grant for more composting bins in order to expand the sites around campus. Julie Benda mentioned student interest in dorm composting and Nate Lutz confirms it as a possibility. Nate, Julie and Michael will meet for further discussion on feasibility and interest in a pilot program that requires individual student sign-ups. Pam Newsome asked if grant money for the composting funds could also be used in making the instructional video. Michael will look into this.

**Old Business**

1. **02/03/15-** Aaron DeYoe Presented DesignWorks posters for cafeteria. Stickers will be included for the top surface of the bins. Michael Baker requests that the posters clarify that food contaminated paper products can go into the compost. Michael also presents free posters provided by Hennepin County. After discussion, the committee decided DesignWorks would continue making the posters to stay within an MCAD branding scheme.
2. **02/03/15-** Michael Baker shared that Hennepin County is offering a 10,000 grant and a 50,000 match-grant for institutions to purchase recycling/compost units, etc. Pam Newsome-Prochniak suggested contacting Kate Mohn to follow up with this opportunity.
3. **02/03/15-** Wendy Jedlicka (of MASD faculty) and Beth Mercer-Taylor from the U of M introduced themselves in order to present an array of opportunities involving the upcoming AASHE conference in October 2015. Beth explained the conference is looking for ways guest can explore Minneapolis after conference hours, as well as the need for better representation of art and design at the conference. Call for proposals regarding presentations and specific AASHE sponsored activities is due February 23, and is open to all Faculty, Students and Staff. There is also a possibility to have an art/sustainability show hosted by MCAD, a Pecha Kucha presentation in Auditorium 150, and the opportunity for MCAD to have a booth in the exhibit hall for recruiting, MASD information and other promotions. Pam Newsome and Curt McNamara suggested contacting Cindy Gilbert for booth proposals. Julie Benda, Wendy Jedlicka and Beth will stay in contact to follow through on some of these opportunities.
4. **02/03/15**- Beth and Wendy announced the local host committee meeting for the AASHE conference to be Tuesday Feb. 10th, graduate assistant Julie Benda volunteered to attend and take notes.
5. **02/03/15- Curt McNamara** presented information on the Bio mimicry Challenge to the school. The Bio mimicry institute holds a biennial competition for bio mimicry design solutions. The 2015’s competition is on food systems. Curt informed the group he and Cindy are able to facilitate and advise a team on campus, which could be comprised of either exclusively students or a combination of students and faculty. Curt suggested hosting an informational lunch meeting in order to get the word out a see if there is interest in forming a team. Pam suggested the possibility of Green club helping out, and then use Student Union money in order to provide pizza, etc. Mercedes Knapp offered to work with Curt on creating an event.
6. **02/03/15-** Michael Baker briefed committee on recycle mania 2015. He will post some statistics and posters throughout campus during the 8-week challenge. Pam and Greg suggested contacting Brett Smith in order to use the television monitor for stats and info. Michael also has recyclmania prizes to give away, and would like to have a lunch hour trivia session. Mercedes Knapp of the Green Club offered to help organize the trivia session to give away prizes. She will meet with Michael to make future arrangements.
7. **12/2/14**- Brent Meyers of DesignWorks introduced the first draft of the new Waste/Recycling/Compost posters. New posters have upgraded lists, bolder typefaces, and nearly identical color schemes. The committee reviewed the posters and made minor suggestions to the clarifying the language, differentiating cups, and using more identifiable graphics. DesignWorks will check in once more before printing. Printing will replace existing posters as well as additional stickers for the tops of cafeteria garbage bins.
8. **12/2/14** GA assistant Julie Benda demoed the new intranet site for Sustainability on Campus. The new site includes information on sustainable initiatives, committee meetings, involvement and contact information. Discussion over inclusion of “potential initiatives” as part of site resulted in agreement to only list what is in progress or already accomplished. Pam Newsome recommended more promotion of awards and recognition that the school has received. Vince Leo suggested using the school newsletter to highlight sustainable activities and changes.
9. **12/2/14** Brock Announced MCAD’s new membership to AASHE. A tool for high education institutions to monitor, discuss, and learn more about improving campus sustainability.
10. **12/2/14** Tom Milbrath approached the topic of recycling solvents, specifically in the Print Shop. Looking for way s to reduce the amount that is disposed, for toxic waste reduction and cost benefits.
11. **9/9/14-** Vince Leobrought up funding for SEAC. Suggested looking for something externally. Committee agreed on the need for funding order to further important initiatives. Tom Milbrath suggested looking for small grants, solar co-ops and investing credit in solar gardens. Michael Baker suggested rebates for new technology, and it is decided that the committee will bring this to the attention of Kristine Wyatt and Pam Newsome. Possibility of a rotating fund for SEAC is brought up but addressed as unlikely, although estimates of the committee’s initiatives have saved the school are thought to be over $150,000 annually.
12. **9/9/14** Julie Benda volunteered to contact Cindy Gilbert to get Sustainable Design MA’s involved with research and strong arguments for school initiatives. **9/10/13** –The group also discussed the idea of leveraging students enrolled in the Master of Sustainable Design on internships/course work. Further discussion with Cindy would need to occur.
13. **4/15/14 –** The committee discussed the take-aways from the presentation; specifically what behavioral changes to employ. General discussion occurred about the number of Culligan water coolers on campus and the potential to put a timer on them to reduce energy consumption. Facilities will conduct an analysis. **1/28/14** – The committee watched a NACUBO webinar on how behavioral changes helped cut energy usage in half at Valencia College in Florida. The video covered how engagement, collaboration, communication and celebration of successes helped form habits of cutting energy usage. The primary reductions of energy were found in more closely scheduling HVAC equipment to set back when areas weren’t occupied and consolidating events/classes into single buildings instead of spread out. The committee will discuss what items MCAD already incorporates and what items we could potentially pursue at the next meeting.