



MINUTES

Advisory Council on Stewardship and Sustainability – Climate Action Planning Committee

Thursday, February 3, 2011 12:10-1:10pm

College Hall 402

In Attendance: Monica Bartlett (co-chair), Brian Henning (co-chair), Erik Horngren, Thomas Whitney, Ken Sammons, Gary Chang, Anastasia Wendlinder, Ann Ostendorf

1. The meeting began with a recap of the January 20 meeting of the ACSS Steering Committee, which meeting focused on a discussion of the Draft Green Purchasing Policy and its inclusion of two provisions (LEED building policy and Energy Star electronics purchasing policy) that will be recommended as the “tangible actions” we will commit to while we work on the Climate Action Plan. (According to the Climate Commitment, Gonzaga has until March 15, 2011 to declare which of seven “tangible actions” we will take while we draft our Climate Action Plan.)
2. Henning provided a general overview and timeline outlined in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. An emissions inventory is due by January 15, 2012. Gonzaga’s Climate Action Plan is due to the ACUPCC by January 15, 2013. The CAP should include six major areas: an introduction, emissions inventory, mitigation strategies, projects for education, research and community outreach, financing, and a way to track progress. He emphasized that the inventory and CAP should be seen as a living document that can be revised as realities change.
3. The University has a partial inventory completed for 2009 and a nearly complete emissions inventory for 2010. There was discussion of ways to improve the visual presentation of the data in pie, bar, and line graphs.
 - a. **Action Item:** It was agreed that, before the next CAP meeting, Ken Sammons and Thomas Whitney would review the data collection process used by “Clean Air Cool Planet,” the service used by Gonzaga to calculate its emissions inventory, to get a better understanding of said process and see if there might be any way to improve it.
4. Members agreed that mitigation strategies should focus on the proportionally larger parts of Gonzaga’s carbon footprint. Since energy usage makes up 41% of the University’s total greenhouse gas emissions (and since 50% of this 41% comes from the use of coal, gas, and wood burning), there was discussion about making energy usage a primary area that the CAP would address.

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- a. **Action Item:** Ken Sammons agreed to invite someone from Avista to speak at the next meeting about the technical and financial efficiency of clean energy resources in the region.
 - b. **Action Item:** Brian Henning agreed to approach his contact in the solar industry to find out more about state and federal incentives.
 - c. **Action Item:** Bartlett agreed to secure a space to participate in a carbon offset “webinar” hosted by ACUPCC held after the next CAP meeting on Thursday, March 3 from 2-3:30pm. The webinar will detail the principles behind carbon offsets and how a school can implement them to help achieve climate neutrality. The location for this event has yet to be determined.
5. The potential for incorporating the development of the CAP into the University’s curriculum was also discussed. Some ideas included: making data collection and analysis of GHG inventory part of course work, offering students independent studies, internships or thesis opportunities related to helping develop the CAP, and making discussion of ways the University can mitigate its GHG emissions an integral part of some ENVS courses. This would be difficult because there is only a limited amount of time until the CAP has to be completed, but it is something worth considering. Henning also reminded the group that Gonzaga is hosting the Curriculum for the Bioregion meeting on Friday, February 11. This initiative will bring together all the regional colleges and universities and will explore ways to incorporate sustainability across the curriculum.
 6. The idea of hiring a consultant to help with the development of the CAP was discussed. However, no firm conclusion was made regarding the necessity or feasibility of this option.

The next CAP meeting will held Thursday, March 3 in College Hall 402. The next ACSS Steering Committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 17 in College Hall 402. Both meetings will take place at 12:10pm.