

# Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC)

February 7th, 2024 1:30-2:50

Physics Building P122

[meet.google.com/ncj-dzwp-uxu](https://meet.google.com/ncj-dzwp-uxu)

## Minutes

**Attendance:** Shannon Graham, Paul Romano, John DeGood, Isabella Guhl-Erdie, Hannah Stutzman, Miriam Shakow, Kathleen Webber, Jason Alejandro, Jenna Needham, Maria Hounhan, Dana Laissle, Katie Kahn, Lauren Weikel, Terrell Osei-Kyei, Emma Couchie, Larry Pearlstein, David (Enzo) Whetton, Jacqueline Faulk, Bryan Wood, Diane Bates, Joshua Sanchez, Kiara Molina, Olivia Gonzalez

### Meeting Notes:

**A. Approval of Minutes** - Approved

**B. Update: Sustainability Analyst (student worker)** - Offer Extended, awaiting acceptance

**C. Student Government Presentation** - Shannon and Paul will be attending the Student Government meeting today to discuss the activities of ESC and encourage coordination and student participation.

**D. ESC Logo Survey** - Professor of graphic design Jason Alejandro reported out

- Students working on logo design as assignment for class
- [Survey shared](#) with ESC to help graphic design students gauge ideas and give them direction for the project - **please complete within the next week**
- Plans for students to show work at the March ESC meeting

### **E. Working Group Report Out**

Report out:

- Transportation** - Shannon Graham - last semester focused on EV charging stations expansion and management, this semester want to focus on walking and biking transportation on and around campus
- Communications** - Kathleen Webber - working with CaLL courses: graphic design professor UI/UX course looking at our ESC website for improvement, UI/UX writing to assess the users of our website; collaboration with intro to PR course to write press releases for our related events; collaboration with Glenn Steinberg course on nature and literature will be writing about outdoor spaces on campus and how to interact with them. Still outstanding - signage for the upcoming meadow project.

- c. **Sustainable Landscaping** - Miriam Shakow - Teaching the Climate Justice and Social Action course this semester, student projects are focusing on landscaping projects including the pilot roundup-free turf management, the meadow, and a composting program on campus. Students will select their projects this Friday.
- d. **Energy** - Paul Romano - To be created as a working group this semester, reach out to Paul if interested in participating in this group. See notes below for details.

### ***F. Energy Working Group Formation***

Proposed Working Group Topics to include:

- a. Membership
- b. Collaboration with Environmental Studies and Engineering Programs
- c. PSE&G Engineered Solutions Program
- d. NJ BPU Decarbonization Plan - funding study to develop roadmap for renewable energy by 2040 (including nuclear and storage)
- e. CHP Optimization and Capacity Expansion
- f. Renewable Energy Opportunities (PV, Storage, Solar-Thermal, Micro-Hydro)
- g. Fleet Vehicle Management

### ***G. Future meeting topics:***

Ideas from last time:

- March - Earth Week
- April - Energy
- May - Air Quality
- Other ideas
  - Improvements in sustainability when it comes to dining at TCNJ
    - More specifically: recycling/single use plastic, lower-impact food options, food waste
  - Recycling awareness and compliance on campus
  - Communicating our meetings - getting to a wider audience
- Updates on previous topics: outreach and engagement with single use and water

### ***H. Discussion of Sustainability and Energy Management Efforts***

- a. PSE&G Engineered Solutions Program
- b. Audit now complete and selection and funding to be considered, opportunity for student engagement
- c. NJ BPU Decarbonization Plan
- d. Campus Energy 2024 ( Stanford and Google Visits)
- e. Environmental Justice / AO-25 Rule for TCNJ's renewal BOP180001.

### ***I. TCNJ Earth Week Brainstorm***

Meeting scheduled for February 13th at 11:00. If interested, contact Katie Kahn.

### ***J. Water Bottle Filling Station Promotion***

- Students will table at BSC to survey students on use of water bottle filling stations and introduce a new app(lication) for this purpose.
- Student podcast highlighted misconception about the filter light on the fountain - when it turns yellow and red it is not bad, it's just close to the date to be replaced!
- What are we filtering out? Information available here:  
<https://powerplant.tcnj.edu/hydration-station-locations-tcnj/>

***K. Sustainable Landscaping CaaLL continued discussion***

Anthropology/Sociology ANT/SOC 346 Climate Justice & Social Action Course

***L. NJHEPS (higher education professionals in sustainability) workshop*** - February 21st, 10:30am-1pm at Rutgers. Contact Kathleen Webber to attend.

***M. Facilities Staff Training on Landscaping Practices***

2/21 10-12:00, with Richard McCoy, an organic turf management expert

3/6 10-12:00, with Mike Van Clef, of Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space.