

Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC)

March 6th, 2024 1:30-2:50

Physics Building P122

meet.google.com/ncj-dzwp-uxu

Minutes

Attendance: Kevin Willis, Evonne Ryan-Grandell, Rebecca Chabot, Nicole Piutrowski, Para Wright, Terrell Osei-Kyei, Kathleen Webber, Isabella Guhl-Erdie, Josh Coletti, Miriam Shakow, Hanna Stutzman, Miguel Hernandez-Delgado, Katie Kahn, Diane Bates, John DeGood, Etsub Gezahagne, James Pan, Enzo Whetton, Jacqueline Faulk, Rachel Shuster, Kera Killeen, Kayla Ripley, Larry Pearlstein, Paul Romano, Shannon Graham

Agenda Items

- A. Approval of [ESC Minutes 240207](#) - February 7th, 2023
- B. TCNJ Earth Week Event Brainstorm Suggestions
- C. NJHEPS [AASHE Stars Workshop](#)
- D. Working Group Report Out
- E. Department of Energy's NREL Solar District Cup
- F. Energy Working Group Membership
- G. EV Charging Station Policy Development

A. Approval of Minutes from 2/7/2024

- Minutes were approved.

B. TCNJ Earth Week Event Brainstorm Suggestions

Discussion on Earth Week, comments and suggestions:

- Earth Day 2024 is April 22nd
- Proposed Theme is “Decarbonization”
 - Host a Q&A after the movie screening to answer questions about decarbonization
- Proposed Film Event “Chasing Carbon”
- Bonner has reserved a table for Monday, 4/22 from 11am -2pm at BSC
 - Kickoff, e-waste collection, advertise for the rest of the week
- Campus Dining Plans
 - Digital boards in Eickhoff Atrium - rotating earth-week facts
 - Currently seeking content
 - Shannon Graham has some decarbonization facts she can share

- Monday Dining in the Dark event - to support energy conservation from 11am-2pm and 6pm-8pm
- Tuesday Earth Week Lunch in Eickhoff - featuring plant based foods
 - Can table in Eickhoff during this as well - possibly Bonners or other student groups?
- Wednesday Plate Scrape - weighing food waste in Eickhoff
- Thursday Spin the Wheel event in Eickhoff - questions on sustainability, nutrition, etc. to win prizes (reusable straws, TCNJ dining mugs)
- Friday scavenger hunt on plant based foods in Eickhoff with herb seed giveaways as prizes
- Scheduled Tours of Campus Sustainability Initiatives
 - EV Installation- Mumtaz Makhdomi - 10 people
 - Meadow Rewilding & Organic Landscaping Pilot - Miriam Shakow
 - Fleet Electrification - Mike Weber
 - Recycling/ TCNJ Green App - Amanda Radosti
 - Water Bottle Filling Stations - Volunteer
 - Green Dining Options - Audrey / Karen Roth - 5 people
 - Bonner Garden (Present/Future) - Katie Kahn
 - Wednesday, 4/23, 12pm-3pm during “Greenstock”
 - Green Building Practices (Forcina/Roscoe) - Maggie Greco
- Utilize This Week at TCNJ to advertise for all events
- What are good times to attract classes to attend daytime events?
 - Colloquium hours: M/T/R/F 12:30pm-1:50pm and Wednesdays 11am-1pm
 - Thursday is also Take Your Child to Work Day
- Possible trivia night in Traditions? Thursday night April 25
 - Include content from the movie for the questions

C. NJHEPS AASHE STARS Workshop - Kathleen Weber, Isabella Guhl-Erdie

- Learned about new STARS report coming from AASHE - a way to quantify and communicate our sustainability efforts
- Discussion around tying this to enrollment - incoming students care about sustainability so if we can be listed on Princeton Review we could use this to market our efforts and increase enrollment potentially
- Many other institutions have gotten these AASHE STARS rankings and been able to make impressive press releases
- See links above in “agenda” for more detailed notes
- Paul will create draft request to administration to get support for application.

D. Working Group Report Out

Opportunity for working group leaders to give an update to the council on recent developments and discussions

- a. Transportation - Shannon Graham
- b. Communications - Kathleen Webber
- c. Sustainable Landscaping - Miriam Shakow
 - i. Two workshops have been held on campus as of today, discussing the installation of the campus meadows
- d. Energy - Paul Romano

E. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) Solar District Cup (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-district-cup>), a collegiate competition that challenges student teams to design solar + storage for an assigned campus or district who has partnered with the organizers to provide their goals, master plan, utility rate, etc. They are funded to educate students around solar+storage at the campus scale.

F. Energy Working Group - seeking members

Virtual meeting dates and times: Last Wednesday of each month during the academic year from 1:00-2:00 PM

G. EV Charging Station Policy Development

The college anticipates installation of our first networked electric vehicle chargers this summer to be followed by the introduction of direct current fast chargers. In order to manage demand and assure the financial sustainability of such efforts to expand our capacity to meet future demand the college will need to establish a policy for their use. As such a policy is aligned with the interest of this group I would suggest we develop a draft policy by engaging stakeholders in this forum, and/or that of our transportation working group, for consideration by the college for adoption.

H. Other Items

- TCF-NJ.org is the Trenton Computer Festival happening March 16th at TCNJ.
- Composting update: seeking biodigester for the campus, may partner with dining services to utilize plate scrape data.