

Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC)

Nov 1st, 2023 1:30-2:50

Physics Building P122

Minutes

Attendance: Bryan Wood, Hanna Stutzman, Lary Pearlstein, Amanda Radosti, Miguel Hernandez-Delgado, Shannon Graham, Paul Romano, Katie Kahn, Miriam Shakow, Diane Bates, Kathleen Webber, Jaqueline Faulk, Jon DeGood,

Notes:

Old Business

- Paul will be following up with the campus-wide transportation survey

Campus Signage

- Adding signs to water bottle filling stations to promote their use and purpose for sustainability
- Signs to dissuade people from using single-use plastics near vending machines
- What would be useful messaging from a student perspective?
 - Signs that tell a story, give evidence to support refill station use as a sustainable alternative to single-use
 - “Free & Safe” (compared to paying \$ for bottled water)
 - In the towers, there’s only a water bottle filling station on the first floor - TCNJ to continue to increase convenience with ongoing installations
- Survey responses from Dr. Shakow class a few years ago
 - Messages heard growing up that only bottled water is safe to drink
 - In response, students did blind taste tests to show the difference is not noticeable
 - Coordinate effort to increase awareness of how the filters make the water safe
- Should we be doing a survey to determine what concerns people have about the water on campus right now to frame our awareness campaign?
 - Should we do a wider sustainability survey across campus?
- Each sign can have a different message/catchphrase, plus a QR code to “learn more” with all the info in a centralized location
- Should share more specific information on the types of filters in the refill stations and what they do
PS We presently use Elkay WaterSentry® Plus filters performance details may be found [here](#)
- We could do our own testing and compare the filtered water to bottled water (and also to unfiltered tap water)
- Include information about the filter light indicators (yellow and red doesn’t mean it isn’t safe to drink)

Other Discussion

- How to create an interactive map and/or physical map plus signage including all locations of sustainability on campus
- Bonner garden, pollinator gardens, water bottle refill station, EV charging stations, etc.

Working Group Report Out

- Transportation - Shannon Graham
 - Initial meeting focused on charging stations - questions/ideas:
 - how to encourage people to not park all day (have a graduated fee after 4 hours)
 - do the new stations have an app and if so can it send reminders to move the car after 4 hours
 - how to keep the pricing reasonable but can use it to maintain the stations
 - look into the AASHE points we'll get for the stations
 - can students charge overnight to free up commuter space during the day?
 - Third party chargers in campus town?
 - Future conversations to include safe walking/biking to campus
- Communications - Kathleen Webber
 - Met with Matt Winkel about updating and consolidating the website. They will be updating our website to model the homepage of CETL
 - We will continue to monitor the content ourselves - working to edit content to be less text-heavy
 - One issue we brought to them was that we have many websites that may not need their own domain (EV charging, recycling, water, etc.) but that we'd need a lot of coordination from various offices to get approval for this
 - Working group can send requests for approval to Shannon and then she will share it with the council for feedback and approval.
- Sustainable Landscaping - Miriam Shakow

Sustainable Landscaping overview

Overview given by Miriam Shakow

- Proposal from student leaders Bryan Wood and Hanna Stutzman - Re:wild Your Campus - a **pilot program** for non-roundup-based management of turf grass.
 - Select small area for pilot 2024, evaluate cost comparison.
 - Signage/messaging around the area "pardon our appearance" while the area develops
 - Signage could also say "this grass is safe to sit on/safe for pets" to promote the positive repercussions of implementing this
- Discussion of how the ESC could work with students and staff to review the campus landscaping standards, landscape master plan, and tree plans
- CaLL

Open Discussion on Landscaping

Opportunity for council members and attendees to share their thoughts and ideas related to landscaping on campus