

## **Vermont Campus Sustainability Network**

Bi-Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2009

10am-4pm

Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT

### **Meeting Minutes**

Thank you to Vermont Technical College, the University of Vermont, and the Vermont Department of Public Service for their support of this event.

#### **Attendees:**

Eva Chatterjee-Sutton (Bennington College)

Gabe Calvi (Champlain College)

Gary Storrs (Goddard College)

Amber Garrard (Green Mountain College)

Bob Winkler (Johnson State College)

Jack Byrne (Middlebury College)

Heather Ellis (St. Michael's College)

Rick Battistoni (St. Michael's College)

Gioia Thompson (University of Vermont)

Christina Erickson (University of Vermont)

Nell Campbell (University of Vermont)

Tatiana Abatemarco (University of Vermont)

Mieko Ozeki (University of Vermont)

Dan Belheumer (University of Vermont)

Phil Petty (Vermont Technical College)

Joan Richmond-Hall (Vermont Technical College)

Tony Drapelick (World Learning/SIT Graduate Institute)

Erin Lawrence (Department of Public Service)

TJ Poor (Department of Public Service)

#### **Presentation**

The Center for Sustainable Practices- Phil Petty and Joan Richmond-Hall (VTC)

#### **Primary goals**

- Appeal to a student demographic interested in practical skills
- Integrate sustainability into curriculum (sustainable design and technology major)
- Center for Sustainable Practices (CSP)
  - Education
  - Interaction with Vermont business, government, and community
  - Explore and utilize green technology

#### **CSP Projects**

- Market Garden (farmers market located on campus)
- Diversified Agriculture

- Grass energy farming – seeking funds for pellet boiler; CSP has close relationship with Biomass Energy Resource Center
- GIS/GPS Training
- Campus Weatherization – Educating students to conduct building energy audits
  - Hopefully students will be doing actual energy audits instead of shadowing industry professionals
  - Historic preservation – how will our campuses handle this issue?
- Green Renovation – Considering restoring and ‘greening’ former faculty dormitory on campus (will eventually become CSP office)
- Anaerobic Mixed-substrate Biodigester – conducting feasibility study for the system, food scraps and waste, and mapping biomass availability in the region
  - No permitting structure in place to do such a project and have been in discussion with VT A&R
- Anemometer Loan Program – Develops an evaluation for a wind energy site inclusive to student participation
- Workforce training – Will offer a series of seven weatherization certification trainings
  - 12 students have received professional energy auditor training with assistance from EVT
  - Trained students to be weatherization inspectors who assess the performance of energy efficiency contractors and installers
  - Hope to develop to a VT-based weatherization certificate program
- Biomass District Housing – conducting feasibility of biomass facility as district heating
- Energy Education Outreach

### **Discussion**

- Idea: Group of students from schools around VT going into community homes to weatherize and offer advice
  - VTC students always work with professional energy auditors
  - Not necessarily high level work – basic insulation tasks
- Potential for claiming offsets for energy savings realized in community
- DPS Representatives
  - View such a project from education/outreach perspective initially, and move to carbon mitigation context down the road
  - EVT will claim energy savings for projects they are involved in...
  - State (DPS) funding is often used to for start-up organizations with the belief that it will become self-sufficient
  - Participating VCSN schools could provide 400-500 dollars to replace DPS grant funding
- Jack Byrne: What does VCSN have to offer to the surrounding communities? Does its mission and goals tie to any existing organization or plan?

### **Presentation**

#### Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions- Nell Campbell (UVM)

- It is difficult to compare schools (even after normalizing GHG data) because institutions are different scales and consider different ranges of GHG emissions

## Climate Commitment Update

- Collective reporting and collective accomplishments should be used
- Gioia Thompson: Package some current efforts (scope 3) in education and outreach portion of climate action plan
- Champlain College: Spring Hill Solutions completed first inventory, but are finding it difficult to get access to some data on campus (have NOT signed on to ACUPCC)
  - Reduction of scope 1 emissions is not on the agenda of senior leadership at Champlain at this point (sustainability director is not pushing for reductions)
- The visibility of VCSN institution's GHG data to share and compare would be useful
- "Big chunks" of data such as kWh and BTU usage would be useful to begin tracking and inventory process
- Jack Byrne: Setting a goal is also a big first step to begin this process
- Eva (Bennington College): Use a range of energy reduction goals so that each institution can create a suitable and realistic target for itself
- Goddard College
  - Constantly trying to address environmental issues on campus through sustainability measures
  - Completely carbon neutral by 2050 (with student and faculty travel)
  - Feasibility study for wood chip burning plant with BURC
- **Clean Energy Development Fund** – potential source of funding
- Effective communication and publicity of VCSN efforts – link communication offices from each institution
- Use less energy—a qualitative measure—may be the best standard to extend throughout the network's institutions (per capita measurement?)

## Discussion

### Future of VCSN

### Potential Projects

- Historic preservation V. Energy efficiency (**possibly, but not immediately planning**)
  - could fall under umbrella of weatherization discussions
- Weatherization trainings (**Yes, Committee Formed**)
  - Service opportunities statewide
  - EVT is gearing up to do weatherization workshops
- GHG inventory and climate action planning workshop (**Yes, Committee Formed**)
- Group support for reduction goals
  - Perhaps we should re-evaluate the VCSN mission to reflect this
- Student summit (**possibly, but not immediately planning**)
- Twice per year meetings (**Yes, UVM will coordinate**)
  - Next time, southern Vermont location
  - Volunteers: GMC, Bennington, Goddard
- Collective impact and achievement reporting (**Yes, Committee Formed**)
  - Communications opportunities
  - Goal: info compiled by April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Outreach to institutions not participating or just beginning
- Membership fees?
  - Must define membership benefits first

### Committees\*

- 1) Steering Committee
  - a. Jack Byrne, Phil Petty, Gioia Thompson, Tatiana Abatemarco, Tony Drapelick, Erin Lawrence
- 2) Weatherization training/workshops
  - a. Phil Petty (chair), Amber Garrard, Jack Byrne, TJ Poor, Eva Chatterjee-Sutton, Tony Drapelick
- 3) Collective reporting
  - a. Nell Campbell (chair), Jack Byrne, Gabe Calvi, Gary Fitch, Heather Ellis
  - b. Goal: info compiled by April 1<sup>st</sup>
- 4) Fundraising
  - a. Jack Byrne, Eva Chatterjee-Sutton, Tatiana Abatemarco
- 5) GHG Inventory Workshop
  - a. Tony Drapelick, Bob Winkler

\*All committees agreed to have at least one conference call and define a workplan by March.

### **Discussion**

#### NECSC Conference @ UVM Fall '09

- Presidential forum is a primary event at the conference where sustainability directors “grill” presidents of institutions with tough questions
  - Will VCSN presidents participate?
  - Where should invitation come from? Dan Fogel or Steering Committee?

### **Discussion**

#### Focus the Nation

- Goddard College – Newsletter distributed throughout the campus, CFL challenge, but have not focused on any national movement
- Champlain College – Plan to hold events during the month of February
- St. Mikes – Putting efforts towards Earth Week beginning 4/18/09
- SIT – Potentially do something Town Meeting Day; student organized conference is also taking place during the spring
- Johnson State – Students participate in Earth Week
- Bennington College – Students are off campus with internships during Earth Week, but plan to hold events earlier in semester
- Middlebury College – Sunday Night Group will likely organize events and programs; energy check-ups using kilowatt meter to reduce and conserve
- Green Mountain College – Powershift; spring: climate neutrality plan, green dorm, etc.
- VTC – many events to be held on Earth Day