Sustainability Steering Committee
Meeting: March 6, 2014 at 1:00PM-2:30 PM
University Crossing Conference Room 158

Agenda:

Open

- Composting Updates
- RecycleMania 2014- Composting Results to-date
- RecycleMania 2014- Electronics Recycling ongoing (w/ update)
- CAP/Sustainability Website
- Earth Week 2014 Planning
- Third Annual MA Sustainable Campus Conference, April 17, 2014- ICC
- Other Business

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thu. Mar. 20, 2014 (University Crossing Conference Room 158)

Upcoming Sustainability Related Events:

- 3/27- Climate Policy Negotiation Simulation- 4:30-8:00 PM, Cumnock Hall (Registration Req.)
- 3/31- Showing of “The True Cost of Coal: Labor, Environment and Big Mining in Columbia”- 12:00-1:00 PM- O’Leary 222
- 4/8- “Building a climate movement: Organizing as an approach to social change” Dr. Hahrie Han, 3:30-4:20 PM, Olsen Hall 408
- 4/17- MA Sustainable Campus Conference- ICC (Registration Req.)
- 4/12- SEA’s “Beat the Heat” Event
- **4/21 through 4/25- EARTH WEEK**
- 4/30- Showing of “A Fierce Green Fire”- O’Leary 222
- 5/1- “Our Shared Climate Legacy” series of short, student-produced videos 5:00-7:00 PM- Alumni Hall
Sustainability Steering Committee
3/6/2014 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

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<thead>
<tr>
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Upon arrival attendees received a packet containing:
- Current Meeting Agenda
- Minutes to 2/20/2014 Sustainability Steering Committee Meeting
- Earth Week 2013 Schedule

Meeting Opened by Richard LeMoine at 1:11 PM

A. Composting Phase II Updates

- Rich informed the committee Casella passed on information about the costs of Phase II prior to this meeting and the cost per tip has been heavily reduced and marks a savings of about $100,000 per year
  - We can expect further savings from Casella as they are working on a right-sizing program and we can expect further MSW diversions in the future
- Chris Monti informed the committee that he has compostable bags. But only 300 till the 24th of March.
  - Some side discussion about various types of bags occurred. Gunther was to email Tyler some information he has on compostable bag brands and Tyler and Rich were going to look into other brands of bags to help Aramark purchase if need be.
B. RecycleMania Composting Update
   - Tyler presented the committee with our results for the 8 week composting competition to-date.
   - The numbers kept increasing as we brought more locations on.
   - We expect the numbers to drop over the next few weeks as Spring Break is 2 Weeks away.
   - At the end of the last full week we composted 0.21 lbs of compost per Full-time student and Faculty/Staff member

C. RecycleMania Electronics Recycling Update
   - Electronics Recycling kicked off last Friday
   - Word about the recycling seems to be spreading
   - Tyler worked hard to get the word about RecycleMania out. In the past week stories of RecycleMania have appeared in:
     - The official UML Twitter Feed
     - The official UML Connector Twitter Feed announcing a new issue
     - An official University Press Release news article
     - A UML “Connector” article exclusively about RecycleMania
     - A UML “Connector” article about the Student Environmental Alliance
   - Tyler also informed the committee the University sent out its first shipment of electronics on 2/29 from normal campus operations and we recycled over 1,200 pounds of electronics
   - The next shipment is due for Friday 3/7 and there is a considerable amount of electronics ready to go out.

D. Earth Week 2014 Brainstorming
   - Various members of the committee shouted out ideas for Earth Week 2014:
     - Launch Event- Receiving Composting back on campus (Tony)
     - Electric Challenge (Rich)
     - Dumpster Sort (Tony)
     - Falcons- Adopt a Hawk- Unveiling Program (Jill)
     - Clothing Drive (Lori)
     - Bike to school and work day (Rich)
     - Outdoor Activity on CRC Lawn (Tyler)
     - Recycleable Bottle Drive w/ Community Donation (Rich)
     - DifferenceMakers Involvement (Adam)
     - Dining Hall Compost Rate Competition (Tyler)

E. 3rd Annual MA Sustainable Campus Conference, April 17, 2014 at the UML ICC
   - More info on http://www.masustainablecommunities.com/
   - Tickets for sale at http://massccc.eventbrite.com/
   - Mayor of Lowell to speak at event.
   - Chancellor to speak at event and possibly keynote

F. Other Business
   - Wish Project in Lowell
• Jill informed the committee about the Wish Project, an organization in Lowell with a warehouse located on Plain St. full of furniture and clothing. They are always accepting more goods. Jill urged the university to look into donating to them since they are a local organization.
• The warehouse is 15000 sq ft.
• People are referred to the Wish Project by social workers and the organization will use stuff in their warehouse to outfit an entire apartment in a day.
• They take pretty much everything, including old mattresses.
• The organization is designing a huge trailer with a heating element running under it to use to kill bed bugs/bacteria and sanitize all donated mattresses.
  ○ This trailer is open to other groups to use for a fee.

**Move-Out Events**
• Rich notified the committee that move out falls on the heels of earth week.
• Gunther urged the committee to consider donating to the Wish Project any goods leftover from move-out.
• We should also consider sorting move-out trash into recycling and MSW.
• Food collection at the end of move-out (Canned, packaged, compost, msw)
  ○ If this happens, Peter urged the committee to notify facilities because they purchase the open top dumpster for this event.

**River Clean-Up**
• Gunther to provide the committee with information on the large city river clean-up with the Merrimack watershed group.

**City of Lowell Earth Day Events (along with Nat’l Parks)**
• Gunther informed the committee that the Lowell National Historic Parks will be hosting a multi-pronged event at the Boot Mills as part of an event called “Healthy Parks, Healthy People.”

**New Academic Sustainability/Climate Change Minor**
• Lori Weeden informed the committee that she is working on a new minor and would like the committee to offer feedback if they wish.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:32 PM

Next Meeting on Thu. March 6, 2014 1:00-2:30 PM in University Crossing Conference Room 158

*If these minutes need correction or additional information please forward to Tyler Arrigo, University of Massachusetts Lowell Environmental Sustainability Program Developer, via email Tyler_Arrigo@uml.edu.*