

SSFT Minutes 8-30-14

Attendance:

Kyle Keraga
Jesse Noviello
Kenny Campbell
Jessica Onion
Colleen Meehan
Sean Wilson

Introductions

Going over current projects

- Urban farming
 - o On campus?
- Vasudha garden
 - o Plan
 - o Freshmen involved
 - o Don't procrastinate
 - o Laura research, freshmen plant in a few weeks
 - o Get Sean's email to Laura
- Buildings advocate initiative
 - o Electricity and water data from all around campus
 - o Building directors, info to them monthly
 - o Graph electricity and water usage
 - o Incentives to decrease usage
- People's Climate March
 - o Transportation to NYC in September for march
 - o Two possibilities for transportation
 - Elizabeth – prob. \$35 a head, bus to Albany, train to NYC
 - Mascarenhas – free via Sierra Club
 - Either way, we have transportation
 - o Start taking names now. Figure out a minimum to know how many buses will be needed.
- Green revolving fund
 - o Long-term budget for sustainability. Money saved by increasing on-campus efficiency gets divided between administration and a budget for more sustainability projects. Positive cycle so sustainability fund increases to grow. (sustainable way to pay for sustainability says jesse)
 - o Many schools have programs like this in place, and they work well.
 - o Biggest hurdle is to make plan align with rpi admins' goals (they have very strict goals)
- New project idea (Sean): Composting on campus
 - o More compost bins at dorms
 - o Composting program on campus
 - o Commons had a compost bin, but it's no longer around
 - o Have to be super explicit or someone will do it wrong
 - o Money goes back into green revolving fund if compost is sold

- Otherwise can use compost on campus for flowerbeds or greenhouse or Vasudha garden, etc.
 - Save money from reducing trash thrown from dining hall
 - Small scale (dorm by dorm) or dining hall scale?
 - Physics department uses commons trash for biofuel
 - Educational would be good, try smaller scale
 - Start with garden, move on to other residence halls
 - What do do with leftover compost?
 - Sell it
- New project idea (Colleen): Replace water fountains with ones that work well for bottles as well as mouths
 - Free sustainability advertising
- Event idea: Go to sustainability conference if climate march falls through? (Sean)
 - Can use sstf funds to go to conference

We should start doing posters and stuff

- Current projects (one per project, don't clutter one poster with everything)
- Hang up fliers Tuesday/Wednesday
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Brief description of projects in next email to gain interest

This Tuesday, Dr. Akera inviting sustainability clubs to class 2-4 pm.

Goals for the semester:

- Recruit
 - Everyone try to bring a new friend to the next meeting
- Finish projects
- Come up with goals and timelines for individual projects to show at next meeting
 - Timeline, what help is needed
- More on-campus projects to improve RPI

Good meeting time for this semester?

- Is Sunday good?
 - Fewer rush events
- People are also trying to go to like every other club
- Whenisgood sent out by Kenny

Meeting over at 3:03