

Sustainability Working Group

Fall 2020 Meeting 2

Thursday, December 3, 2020

2:30pm-4:00pm

[Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees: Thomas Hunt, Scott Perez, Roxane Beigel-Coryell, Daniel Brown, Terry Tar, Maggie Domingo, Elizabeth Neumeyer, Rebekah Hinckley, Jose Castro-Sotomayor

Review Group Norms/Expectations:

- No changes made

Review Charge of Sustainability Working Group

COVID Sustainability Impacts Update

- Focusing on impacts on utility usage during COVID-19 reduced population campus.
 - Electricity and water campus has saved about 25% per month, 50% per month reductions for natural gas. Natural gas is only referring to gas serving a few specific buildings on campus for cooking and water heating purposes. This does not include the main natural gas account for campus heating because the university used to use steam for heating before switching to natural gas in April 2020.
 - April-October 2020 compared to 2019:
 - Electricity has reduced 25%
 - Natural gas (limited analysis) has reduced 58%
 - Water has reduced 29% -- \$17,407 savings this fiscal year, nearly \$48,000 savings total since March
- Tom Hunt (TH): Are the savings all from COVID closures or can any of it be attributed to initiatives or projects completed?
- Roxane Beigel-Coryell (RBC): We have only completed a few small projects that may have some impact on utility usage but we don't have records to measure those specific project savings. The savings represented are primarily from not having people on campus and having reduced occupancy in residence halls.
- TH: It's important we note that these savings cannot be maintained when population returns to campus as we work on future budgets.

Climate Action Planning Updates and Discussion

- **Overview of Climate Action Plan Survey Results**
 - Thank you to Rebekah for helping to process survey results.
 - Reviewed bar charts of survey responses by focus area.
 - RBC: Trend throughout the survey is that most awareness/educational signage actions are the least popular.
 - Maggie Domingo (MD): When was the survey live?
 - RBC: Think mid-October through mid-November

- Jose Castro-Sotomayor (JCS): Note that most popular actions are ones that don't require change in personal behavior. Least popular are ones that ask people to change personal behavior. May give us a signal to address campaigns about personal responsibility and personal behavior.
- JCS: Do we have information on students' major?
- RBC: No, we didn't collect that information. It would be a good idea to collect next time.
- MD: Signage for real-time parking information was in the five year transportation plan. Financial resources are the only thing preventing implementation at this point. Parking and Transportation Demand Management Study also incorporates adding bike lanes on campus.
- Elizabeth Neumeyer (EN): What is the rain water capture area we already have currently used for?
- Terry Tar (TT): The runoff area on west side of campus receives water from maybe two-thirds of campus. It is purely a drainage system for stormwater so it doesn't drain the neighbors. It slows water down by carrying water through levee. It flows south, crosses Protrero road, and goes to the farm land. We have looked before at putting a valve on that system to have the ability to stop the flow and let the water pond to allow more to go into the groundwater and looking at creating a second pond for water storage.
- Most popular categories overall were solar, rain capture, and shade trees. Least popular were educational signage and pedestrian safety classes.
- Summary of comments provided by Rebekah Hinckley:
 - Transportation was a popular topic of comments. Mostly requests for bike lanes and bike racks. Suggestions to work with city to provide better bike lanes from neighboring cities to campus. Comments to improve shuttle system. Most requests were for shuttle to Camarillo.
 - Energy was also common theme. Most comments were for big changes the campus could make (like solar) instead of individual behaviors.
 - Waste comments mostly related to wanting composting or food-related waste items.
 - Partnerships were mentioned often in the comments. Suggestions to work with local eco-friendly businesses and campus clubs.
 - MD: Would be good in the future to include links for people to find more information about focus area topics. For instance, many of the transportation comments are things campus is already working on but people don't seem to know. Would be nice to let people know some of these things are already in motion.
 - RH: Agree. Many comments seemed to show lack of knowledge about things we are already working on.
 - JCS: Is data able to be divided by responses from faculty, staff and students to see what kind of items each population group were interested in?
 - RH: Yes, it can be separated that way.

- JCS: Curious why faculty engagement is so low.
 - RBC: Would be good to know why involvement is low. May need to find different ways to reach them.
- Instagram feedback may be biased since it was run on sustainability account. We did cross post with other campus accounts to get more diverse engagement. Respondents indicated strong interest in campus taking action on climate change, 94% cared where campus energy comes from, and most important topics indicated were energy, food and waste.
- **Revisit planning timeline**
 - May need to extend timeline based on transition to new campus president and new opportunity to get pro bono consulting assistance. We will remain flexible with the timeline.
- **Next Steps for Climate Action Planning process**
 - Survey responses indicated interest in a zoom forum about the plan.
 - Plan zoom forum for sometime in early spring semester.
 - Will arrange separate meeting to work on zoom forum plan.
 - Consider ways to engage faculty
 - JCS will work on this
 - Continue work on focus areas
 - RBC will email group specific tasks for everyone to indicate availability for
 - RBC will be applying for CI to be considered for pro bono consulting opportunity being offered by Second Nature. Only three campuses will be selected. If awarded to CI, the consultant may be able to identify major gaps in our actions and do some cost benefit analysis
 - JCS will look at survey to offer feedback

Other topics to discuss:

- Other topics/announcements
 - Solar project will start construction December 2020, hope to be done around July if it is a dry winter