







Minutes/Notes of 23rd Meeting of the **EARTH** Group at ASC
Tuesday, June 2, 2009
Noon, Student Life Center, SUB
<http://www.adams.edu/sustainability> (our website)
<http://ascearth.wordpress.com/> (blog – add a comment!)

Present: Christy Miller, Cameron Miller, Laura Moore, Audrey Liu, Neil Rudolph, Don Thompson, Ted McNeilsmith, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Christa Beiriger, Julie Waechter, Linda Relyea, Karen Lemke, Aaron Miltenberger, Chuck Reel, Christine Preiss, Edgar Thomas, Bill Mansheim, Marty Jones.







Next regular meeting: Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.

Announcements and Action Items:

- A letter of support for the Green Community Center in Monte Vista has been sent to Marianna King, promising 40 hours of in-kind assistance with the gala grand opening and suggesting that the Center would provide significant service-learning opportunities for EARTH students.
- TRANE has been doing building audits for the past month and it continues this week. The Geothermal well project is still moving forward with the applications now being reviewed by EPA and Public Health. A grant will be submitted to the US Department of Energy which, if funded, would cover 80% of the cost of the project.
- Solar Energy: Nine proposals have been submitted in response to the College's RFP for solar photovoltaic energy. The proposals will be reviewed and scored this month, then after Xcel Energy has made a decision about its solar RFP, ASC will move forward. Look for something to be finalized by late summer or early fall, with construction to begin shortly thereafter.
- Recycling transfer station area in Richardson Hall: A work order has been submitted by Erik van de Boogaard to clean it out, make sure lights work and provide proper security and access.
- Speaking of Recycling: Welcome Sheryl Peak as a new recycling work-study student for the summer. She and Edgar are working hard to keep up with all the recycling going on at ASC. Dr. Mark Manzanares, Director of Academic Instructional Technology, has a bit of money left in a building budget and has offered to purchase new recycling containers for both the inside and outside of the ES building. Once the new containers arrive, we'll move the old containers to new locations. Thanks, Mark!
- The SLV Local Foods Coalition and EARTH hosted a Local Foods Symposium on May 15 from 11-4:30 at the ASC Student Union Building, Room 309. Reports from the symposium suggest that it was successful. There will be a meeting of the Local Foods Coalition this Friday, June 5 from 10-noon at the Regional Medical Center's Conference Center (the old Grizzly Inn restaurant).
- SLV "WannaBeekeepers" Club Meeting – sponsored by Community Gardens, ASC Community Partnerships, and beekeepers Karen Lemke and Jennifer Johnson. Monday, June 22, 5:30-7:30 pm, Porter Hall room 130. For more information, contact Karen at 719-480-3378.
- More Community Gardens info:
 - The hoop house workshop was a big success, and a lot of fun. Go look at the new greenhouse at the Boyd School Garden at 12th and State.
 - Polston Garden Nights will be held every Tuesday from 5-7 at the Polston garden. Work a bit, harvest some produce.
 - The Gardens are also sponsoring a Garden Camp starting June 11, and continuing on Thursday mornings until mid August, from 9-noon at the Polston garden. The camp is open to children from 5-10 years of age
- Fun Run/Walk: Saturday, August 29. Registration at 9 am, run/walk begins at 9:30 am. \$5 gets you a custom t-shirt, drinks/snacks, and a chance at one of 4 fabulous prizes! We'll also have the solar water heater set up for demonstration.
- Bike to Work Day: June 24 is Colorado Bike to Work Day. Ride your bike to campus that day and reduce your carbon footprint! Watch for flyers from Livewell Alamosa for more information about the day's events in town!

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 Electronics Recycling: We hope to have another round of electronics recycling on October 10. Mike Wyatt from Buffalo Peaks indicated that date would work for him. He's checking with the San Luis Valley BOCES and local school districts to ensure he can combine more than one stop on the trip to make it worth his while.
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 Bake Sale Fundraiser – Autumn @ Adams will be held the week of September 13-19. As was the case last year, the wildly successful (and tasty) Green Chile Cookoff will be a part of A@A, and EARTH will have the opportunity to participate with a bake sale. This was a good fundraiser for us last year, so watch your email for an announcement regarding the exact date for the bake sale. We'll need volunteers to provide bake sale items as well as to staff the table. Items made with local products were a big hit last year!
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 Neil (echoed by many others present) registered his disappointment that the new landscaping around Plachy Hall included Kentucky bluegrass. This would have been a very good opportunity for the College to demonstrate its commitment to reduction of water usage by employing either tasteful xeriscaping or using a drought tolerant species of grass. The group agreed that we should write a position paper regarding landscaping for future projects (whether associated with new construction or renovation) that reflects EARTH's emphasis on sustainability.
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 One last note – This will finish my second year as the *de facto* “leader” of the EARTH group, and I would be happy to have someone else assume that role. Please contact me if you are interested.

Task Force Reports:

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 Energy – Cameron mentioned that TRANE had received all the concerns EARTH members made about energy issues, and that they would be taking those concerns into consideration as they perform the energy audit. The issue of stickers for a “Turn out the lights” campaign was brought forward. Cameron suggested we just go ahead and make our own. Marty will check with Karla on the status of the stickers she and Claire designed. Edgar asked about turning off computers in the open access computer labs and volunteered to be responsible for turning them off. Aaron stated that TRANE is investigating the installation of “vampire power kill switches” for the computer labs (see <http://cleantechnica.com/2008/12/04/standby-kill-chip-the-end-of-vampire-power/> for more information about this)
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 Composting/Local food – Laura reported that cauliflower, peas, eggplant and tomatoes have been planted in the tipi greenhouse at Audrey's house. There will also be an expansion of the gardening area outside the tipi. Please contact Laura (moorele@adams.edu) or Edgar (thomaseg@adams.edu) if you are interested in helping with the gardens this summer.
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 Recycling – See announcements in the previous section. Remember – ASC Community Partnerships has arranged to recycle plastic lids/caps! Please take your lids/caps to the Community Partnerships building at the corner of HWY 160 and Edgemont for recycling.
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 Transportation – Christine mentioned that the Green Bike program is still working great! All the bikes are checked out and there is a waiting list for them. There will be a request submitted to AS&F next year to fund an additional 10 bikes. We think the recycling transfer station in Richardson Hall will be large enough to serve as a storage area for the additional bikes during breaks.
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 Water – Concern was expressed about the campus irrigation system. According to earlier information, the second phase of the irrigation project was to include sensors that would regulate when the sprinklers would be turned on. That hasn't happened yet, as is obvious when you walk around campus while it is raining and the sprinklers are on. Julie will check on the status of the second phase of the irrigation – stay tuned for more information.
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 Communications/Education/Publicity – Please send sustainability tips to Katie Silva (kgsilva@adams.edu).

Thanks for all of your work for EARTH!

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Submitted by Marty Jones, 6/3/09