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Tuesday, August 4, 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, Linda Relyea, Chuck Reel, Edgar Thomas, Kristin Young-Jaramillo, Hanna Steele, Kat Olanca, Chris Olanca, Larry Sveum, Audrey Liu, Ted McNeilsmith, Mary Jo Martin, Marty Jones.





Next regular meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at noon in the Student Life Center of the SUB.


Announcements and Action Items:

-  Kat Olanca, our liaison for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC, <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/>), brought us up to date on ASC's requirements for fulfilling the ACUPCC. By September 15, ASC must submit a Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. Kat is gathering data from numerous sources on campus, including a potential on-line survey regarding transportation, to quantify our emissions. If you have any information regarding activities that are ongoing that reduce our emissions (e.g., the Green Bike Program), please contact her at kholance@adams.edu. By May of 2010, ASC must submit a Climate Action Plan that contains concrete plans for reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. Kat is forming a committee to work on the development of a plan, and is seeking volunteers to serve. Please contact her (kholance@adams.edu) if you are willing to serve on this committee.
-  Kat also brought us up to date on the "Adopt a Flowerbed" program that she initiated this past summer. Not all the flowerbeds were adopted and one of the ASC Trustees is disappointed in the visual appearance of the beds. Consequently, Ruthie Brown from the Green Spot has been contracted to re-do a few of the beds by installing appropriate drip irrigation and planting low maintenance/low water perennials.
-  The geothermal energy grant proposal is due in a few days, and Erik van de Boogaard and Bill Mansheim have been working with TRANE and their consultant to put the final touches on the proposal.
-  Kristin informed us that the Solar Energy proposals have been evaluated and the award was given to SunEdison. They'll be working with Xcel Energy to put together a project for ASC.
-  Lights-out Sticker Campaign: Housing Office staff and RAs will place stickers in the dorms and apartments. If you'd like stickers for your area, please let me know (mbjones@adams.edu) and I'll make sure you get some. Our target is to have the entire campus covered by the end of September or earlier if possible. Thanks for your help!
-  Recycling transfer station area in Richardson Hall: Key requests have been made for this room and sometime in August we should be moving the base of recycling operations from Porter Hall to Richardson Hall.
-  Speaking of Recycling: The outdoor recycling barrel that formerly resided by the ES building has been moved to the dumpster area by the southeast corner of Coronado Hall. That outdoor barrel has a wooden cover with a hinged door to hopefully cut down on the use of the barrel for trash. If it seems to work, we'll try to do the same thing for the other outdoor barrels.
-  The Alamosa Farmers' Market runs on Saturdays from 7 am to 2 pm. If you would like to sell EARTH bags at the Farmers' Market, please contact me (mbjones@adams.edu), with your preferred date (8/8, 8/15, 8/22, 8/29, 9/5, 9/19, 9/26) and I'll bring bags and the cash box by the Friday before your date. EARTH makes \$.50 for each bag we sell.
-  EARTH Fundraiser: The 2nd annual ASC Chile Cookoff will be held on Saturday, September 12 from 11-2 and we will have a bake sale to raise funds. As was the case last year, you are encouraged to use local items in your baked goods. Please let me know if you're willing to donate items and/or staff the table for an hour or so. So far, we've had one confirmed volunteer for both food and working at the table. Last year, this was quite successful (plus you get to taste some great green chile!), so let's have another great event!

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 Fun Run/Walk: As part of ASC's Welcome Week, we are having our postponed 5k fun run/walk on Saturday, August 29. This is a great opportunity to introduce new and continuing students, staff, faculty and community members to the "Health" part of EARTH. Registration starts 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. Please let me know if you can help with this (mbjones@adams.edu). Alternatively, contact James Bedard (jamesbedard@adams.edu), who together with Angela Bedard, is organizing this event.
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 Orientation: We'll try to host an information/recruiting table during orientation for new students. Thanks to Student Life and Community Partnerships, each first-year student will get an EARTH bag! If you are interested in staffing the table (and recruiting new members), please let me know (mbjones@adams.edu). The exact days and times haven't been set yet, but are likely to be 4 pm on Thursday afternoon Aug. 20, near Carson Auditorium, and/or 4 pm on Friday afternoon Aug. 21 on the sidewalk between the SUB and Coronado Hall.
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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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 Rob Santoro, the Volunteer Program Coordinator at the San Luis Public Lands Center, was not able to attend today, but sent his greetings and this message: "please let them know that I continue to work on potential volunteer/internship opportunities for Adams State students that will be posted on <http://www.volunteeroutdoors.net/>. In addition, on ASC Cares Day they will have a FS/BLM project to choose from, without a doubt. I haven't worked out all the details yet but this project will be an opportunity for ASC students to work with both junior high and high school students, acting as a mentor/role model for a day of appreciation of our Public Lands. I have identified an area near Sanford that is in critical need of a trash clean up, so we will be addressing that need as well as educating "tomorrow's future" about the importance of maintaining a balance of use on our public lands."
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 Goals/Activities: Please be thinking about goals and activities to achieve those goals for next year and we'll discuss them at the September meeting. To get your creative juices flowing, here are some possibilities: ASC Cares Day; America Recycles Day; Campus Chill-out; Recycle Mania; EARTH Week and Earth Day (possibly in conjunction with the Grizzly Activity Board); expansion of Green Bikes and bike-to-work days, working to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic bags on campus and in Alamosa, "Carrotmob" (a reverse boycott; see <http://carrotmob.org/>) at City Market with EARTH bags to let City Market know that we really appreciate their sustainability efforts; work closely with the new construction to make "greener" landscaping choices, acquiring a composter, working with the cafeteria/Sodexo on trayless dining and other sustainability initiatives, new EARTH director, etc.....
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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 – The task force will be meeting prior to the next regular EARTH meeting. Cameron stated that the geothermal energy project is currently held up by the EPA permitting process. TRANE should be submitting their energy report in the next week or so. Cameron and the other members of the Energy task force will compare the report to the "wish list" that was submitted by EARTH and other stakeholders last spring. We hope to have more information at the September meeting.
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 Composting/Local food – Laura reported that pumpkins and zucchini are doing great!. Please contact her (moorele@adams.edu) if you are interested in helping with the gardens for the remainder of the summer.
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 Recycling – Christine Preiss, the task force chair since the beginning of EARTH, will be too busy during her senior year and has requested that another person take over the position. Two folks have expressed and interest in becoming the new chair for the recycling task force, and we'll know by the September meeting who it will be.
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 Transportation– Mick reported that LiveWell Alamosa has committed to the purchase of 5 additional green bikes for ASC! They should be available by the beginning of the semester. If you have a chance, please send your thanks to Liza Marron, LiveWell Alamosa coordinator (MarronL@vwhs.org).

 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, 8/4/09