

USC Sustainability Spring Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018 1:30pm-3:00PM

Attendees: Catherine Atkinson, Ray Barkley, Hilda Blanco, Ann Close, Jessica Dutton, Ellen Dux, Mark Ewalt, Carol Fern (called in), Eric Johnson, Pix Verendia, Naomi Martinez, Karen Reed, Darren Ruddell, Gina Whisenant, Tony Mazza, Philine Qian, Antonio Bento

Notes: recorded by Farris Sukkar

Staffing updates – Mark Ewalt

- Ellen Dux – Manager, USC Office of Sustainability
- Gina Whisenant – Waste Services Supervisor, FMS
- USC Housing sustainability position was reported as being in-progress.
 - *As of 5/22/18 it has been determined that it is on indefinite hold.*

Project Renewal Sustainability-Related Energy Efficiency Initiatives – Carol Fern

1. LED Indoor/Outdoor Lighting – \$6.5 M approved for LED retrofits throughout campus
2. HVAC Shutoff Scheduling Software – Funding approved for pilot projects in 2 buildings
 - a. *As of 5/22/18 the project scope has been extended to a total of 13 buildings.*
3. Building Retro-commissioning – \$3.7M approved for implementation of a systematic process for optimizing existing system operations related to building performance through the identification and correction of deficiencies in HVAC, lighting, water heating, potable water, landscape irrigation, and water features.
4. Full implementation of these projects will meet the Sustainability 2020 goals for energy conservation.

2018 GHG survey results – Ellen Dux / Carol Fern

1. Current practices and projects implemented to-date have achieved 16% reduction of USC's carbon emissions, compared to 2014 baseline.
2. Survey does not include the USC Village
3. Survey does include the hospitals and Wrigley
4. Full report still be fine-tuned, and will be posted on website before fall

Sustainability 2020: Proposed Dashboard for Reporting Progress on Goals

- Interactive web dashboard displaying sustainability program metrics
- Publicly available on Sustainability Website
- Run ad in 'O' Daily Trojan
- Click on each goal to get access to more information (no financial analysis unless password provided)
- *SSC feedback:*
 - Baseline – what are we measuring against? You can't manage what you don't measure.

- What is process for analysis – measure and report - how to measure improvements and communicate properly?
- Metrics for apples to apples (benchmarking)
- Include cross hash bar for new initiatives for 2018-2019 that includes a needle that can show the movement from 30% to 65%. Description can appear when hovering over bar.
- Concern with score being lower than it should
- Collective communication lacking

Sustainability 2020: Education and Research - Antonio Bento

- In the final stages of developing the Center for Sustainability Solutions
 - Formal commitments, including budget commitments, from key deans
 - Proposal has been informally discussed with the Provost's office and the final version of the proposal will be formally submitted to Provost office by June 1st
 - Request for operating budget to match the investments made by deans
 - Request for academic venture fund to incentivize formation of interdisciplinary research teams that can secure large grants
 - Expected launching date for the Center is early Fall 2018
- Formal partnership with LACI (Clean Tech Incubator) for policy and engineering opportunities
 - August 23 + 24 USC will host CA Water Summit
- From its outset the Center will be a campus-wide initiative with the goal of becoming the focal point at USC for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach in sustainability. The initial focus is on Urban Sustainability.
- The Center is in the process of establishing Sustainability Solutions Regional Hubs in Los Angeles, Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Beijing, and Delhi.
- Identified over 100 scholars at USC who could contribute to the Center
 - Engagement: Call for "Grand Challenges" scholars program (potentially in partnership with LACI); students would participate in challenges to develop new sustainable technologies, policies, and business models.

Spring/Summer initiatives

- Engagement
 - Develop yearlong campaign for engaging public and informing stakeholders on 2020 goals progress and what's going on at USC
- Transportation
 - Working on platform to provide ride/route connecting information to students via a "mobility hub"
- Procurement
 - Written University purchasing policy completed and in the approval process
- Waste Diversion
 - Recycling program to be up and running in the fall
 - Changed waste hauler from Athens to Republic

- Olympic committee wants zero waste initiative
- Water Conservation
 - City lacks infrastructure to meet goal due to issues with the delay in construction of the grey water feeder pipeline to 2023
- Energy Conservation
 - GHG Inventory will lead to 1st official STARS survey in 2020
 - 1M Sq. Ft. of Village will be included
 - Older buildings on campus are challenges: Investment > than building value
 - Reduced gas usage from replacing boilers, but gas is less expensive
 - *Feedback:*
 - Put a financial number with the CO2 metrics per student
 - Break out Scope 1 and 2 metrics
 - Develop scope 3 strategic action plan
 - Include STARS evaluation and assessment in 2028 Plan
 - Financial return on investments may be higher than expected
- 2028 Plan Proposal
 - Proposal to be completed by June 30, 2019
 - SSC will be the official mechanism for creating, vetting, approving, and communicating the proposal
 - Feedback will be collected via student/faculty/staff surveys, website feedback, focus groups, forums, and SSC
 - Baseline = 2020 STARS and GHG reports
- Academic Senate Sustainability Committee
 - Supports Sustainability 2030 strategy
 - Wants timeline for net zero CO2, water, waste and campus wide education
 - 23 voting members
- Student Earth Week Rally
 - Demand net zero waste, water and energy
 - Dropped the Presidents Climate Commitment as part of their campaign
 - Effort to be renewed in the fall