

**USC Sustainability Steering Committee July Meeting**  
**July 30, 2018, 12:00pm – 1:35pm**

**Meeting Notes**

(recorded by Farris Sukkar)

**Attendees:** Nichelle Mitchell-Huizar, Tony Maza, Vincent Lee, Eric Johnson, Jessica Dutton, Diane Kim, Claire Mauss, Deborah Lee, Brooke Bell, Carol Fern, Karen Reed, Mark Ewalt, Ellen Dux, Farris Sukkar, Josh Sierra, Tianna Shaw-Wakerman, Naomi Martinez

**Introduction - Mark Ewalt**

- SSC roster may change throughout year as committee needs change.
- SSC committee members are requested to represent their constituents and advocate for their concerns, and report back to their constituents about committee decisions and actions, particularly in regard to program funding. Sustainability 2028 will be funded from the university revenue centers and/or cost cutting; all groups have to be prepared to make hard choices when it comes to funding for the 2028 Plan.

**Sustainability 2020 Goals Summary Progress Infographic/July update - Mark Ewalt / Ellen Dux**

- Document provides a high level overview of current and anticipated progress on 2020 Goals
- Document will be updated approximately once a semester and posted on USC Sustainability website.

**Sustainability 2020 Goals Detail Progress Report Table/July 2018 - Mark Ewalt / Ellen Dux**

- Feedback is welcome; deadline for providing revised or updated info is August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action Item: Office of Sustainability (OoS) will distribute revised Progress Report to SSC members and post to website.**
- Program updates
  - Education and Research
    - i. Antonio Bento in final stages of securing finance and developing the Center for Sustainability Solutions.
  - Engagement
    - i. Engagement campaigns will support specific programs as they roll out. Up first this fall – waste diversion.
  - Energy
    - i. Focus is on using local building efficiency benchmarking ordinances to identify areas of energy efficiency improvement in the University's building portfolio.
  - Transportation
    - i. Transportation is working on a new partnership with a third part vendor, a commuter management and ridesharing solutions platform.

- Procurement
  - Goal is approximately 50% complete; scope still under development.
- Waste
  - Goal is 75% waste diversion by 2020. Currently waste diversion rate is lower than anticipated. New waste diversion numbers will be received on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and will be lower than anticipated.
  - As of January 2018, a City of Los Angeles mandate has resulted in the campus using three different trash haulers for different uses. FMS Waste is currently resolving invoice and billing issues, and plans on focusing on diversion and recycling once school starts in the Fall.
  - Indoor recycling bins are being placed throughout campus - goal of completing full implementation by December 2018.
  - Outdoor recycling bins are being placed next to trash containers; there will be approximately 200-250 outdoor bins on campus.
  - One of the greatest impacts faculty, staff and students can have on campus waste diversion is to ensure that waste streams are clean – contaminated recycling ends up in landfill.
- Water
  - Goal is 25% reduction in potable water use.
  - The City has pushed back its estimated completion date for “purple pipe” completion to USC to 2023.

### **Engagement Plan for Fall - Ellen Dux**

- Engagement initiatives will support each of the 2020 Program Goals.
- Office of Sustainability will focus majority of efforts on Waste initiatives this year.

### **Charter for Sustainability 2028 Plan Proposal - Mark Ewalt**

- OoS will reach out to all campus constituents to move forward with developing the 2028 Plan.
- Feedback:
  - Q1: Can there be more transparency added to include USC’s GHG inventory numbers related to benchmarks, goals, and progress toward goals?
    - GHG survey will be summarized and put on the sustainability website.
    - GHG survey will be completed in 2020 and every year after.
    - Primary vehicle for information will be website.
  - Q2: Should faculty be encouraged to provide feedback on document? It is heavily focused on FMS and Operations.
    - The Office of Sustainability is meeting with the Academic Senate soon to solicit feedback and update document.

### **Energy 2028 - Carol Fern**

- USC is contributing to the City’s energy/water/waste reduction goals by identifying resource efficiency and conservation related projects on campus.
- USC’s goal is to focus on energy efficiency first, and then move towards renewables.

- Over the next five years, the Existing Building Energy and Water Efficiency (EBEWE) ordinance with the City of Los Angeles requires any building over 20,000 sq. ft. to disclose their building's energy and water consumption data.
- Mark: Three Net Zeros (Energy/Water/Waste)
  - Each net zero goal has variables that need to be taken into account when messaging.
  - Flexibility with the Net Zero scopes is key because of these variables, some of are not within our control.
- USC uses advanced technology to automate buildings and currently implements some of the most cutting edge technology in building operating systems.

### **Water 2028 - Karen Reed**

- Currently, recycled water for campus is designed for industrial and irrigation use, such as the chiller. It will be expanded to buildings.
- Dual plumbing for toilets once the plumbing is in place is under consideration on a building-by-building basis. Will be required for all newly constructed buildings
- Storm water capture and reuse
  - USC will not pursue storm water capture and reuse due to the area not receiving enough rain to make use of such a system.
  - Focus will be on rainwater infiltration systems, like the Village
  - However, these systems have no financial ROI, so a large campus-wide system must be grant-funded.

### **Peer Benchmarking Document**

- This resource is to offer the SSC and related groups sustainability program information related to peer universities and industry best practices.
- Document should not be shared outside the SSC. The data has not been verified and is considered confidential.

### **Website FAQs**

- Feedback is welcome; deadline is August 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Environmental Core - Tianna Shaw-Wakerman**

- E-Core is focusing on Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Water, and Net Zero Waste with a large focus on transparency.
- Emphasize broadening sustainability circle amongst students to the larger student population in order to be more inclusive.
- E-Core is looking for more professors, instructors, and student leaders to hold lectures and give presentations.
- More information regarding a retreat on Catalina TBD.
- E-Core's major task right now is figuring out how to create the most effective messaging in order to bring together student groups to be used as a more effective tool for creating change. Get all groups on campus working together, strengthen advocacy "muscles."

### **Environmental Student Assembly - Claire Mauss**

- ESA is focused on increasing student advocacy.
- ESA is opening up sustainability positions to work on campaigns similar to E-Core.
- They are currently working with USC Hospitality to make dining halls more sustainable and to bring awareness to incoming freshman to be more sustainable.
  - a. Examples are education platforms and education campaigns where they observe student behavior and find ways for student government to help.
- ESA can help find student volunteers to work on projects.
- ESA has elected a new dedicated Green Engagement Fund Director.

### **Graduate Student Government, Health Science Campus – Brooke Belle**

- GSG does not currently have a sustainability position. Their goal is to create a position for sustainability and work more closely with the USG next year.

### **Undergraduate Student Government – Debbie Lee**

- Focus on supporting outreach + education through residential dining.

### **Website Refresh and Student groups:**

- Sustainability-focused student groups are receiving an information request from the OoS to update the groups information on our website.

### **Funding:**

- USC follows a Revenue Center Management accounting system . This should be kept in mind when proposing new sustainability projects.

### **Q: What is the role of students within the Office of Sustainability?**

- The Office of Sustainability is laying the groundwork for students to be involved with campus sustainability initiatives.
- The best service students can bring to campus is to use all of their tools to foster a sense that students care about sustainability on campus. At a high level, the power of the student voice can be used to make change by strengthening student advocacy.

### **Q: How can students get faculty's attention?**

- The SSC can be used as the official outlet. Students should aim to be a united front to gain attention. The University needs to know the entire student body is passionate about sustainability.