

Community Colleges for Sustainability Conference Call
December 6, 2007
10:30 – 11:30 am PST

Notes

Attendees

Kim Babcock, Finger Lakes Community College
Debra Rowe, Oakland Community College
Ernie McLaney, Central Piedmont Community College
Carolyn Teich, American Association of Community Colleges
Larry Sprague, Broome Community College
Lisa Palmer, Clackamas Community College
Jennifer Hayward, Lane Community College
Dave Willis, Lane Community College
Julie Garret, Santa Fe Community College
Jean Siracusa, Cayuga Community College
Moreen Farrell, Moraine Valley Community College
Colleen, Miami Dade College
Fred McEwan, Wilson Community College
Stan England, University of North Texas
Noelle Studer, Portland Community College

Agenda

- 1. Format of Call**
- 2. Working Nationally with AACC**
- 3. Input on successful student driven projects – continuity strategies**
- 4. Grants & Partnerships for Sustainability**
- 5. Free searchable online database**
- 6. IAQ/IEQ programs**
- 7. General Discussion**
- 8. Next call**

1. Format of Call

Jennifer asked if we wanted to have a standard agenda item that one college gives an extended (5-10 minute) report on their sustainability initiatives. Participants said yes. Wilson Community College will provide the report on the next call. It was also noted that the report should be put in writing and on the CC Green webpage. Notes from this call should also be on this webpage.

2. Working Nationally with AACC

Debbie reported that she recently presented to AACC staff. They are really excited about sustainability. Debbie listed volunteer activities that would greatly help move sustainability forward nationally.

- a. AACC is producing a book on sustainability for community colleges
- b. National initiative on sustainability for rural colleges.
- c. Getting Phi Theta Kappa to take this on as a topic.

- d. Renewable energy program dissemination.
- e. Getting affiliated councils involved with sustainability. Carolyn noted that the newest affiliated council is on rural colleges.
- f. Writing articles for CC Times
- g. Writing articles for the CC journal on sustainability coming out next fall.

Debbie said that people could consider getting release time or a sabbatical to work on national projects or just volunteer an hour or two a week. Jennifer is interested in helping out with the book. Jen will call Debbie. Jean is from a rural college. She might be able to help with rural college initiative. Julie interested in helping with writing articles. Julie will call Matt at AACC. People who are interested should e-mail Debbie at: dgrowe@oaklandcc.edu

3. Input on successful student driven projects – continuity strategies

Lisa asked for input on successful student driven projects, continuity strategies, and guidance for student government representatives. Jean noted that her college has had successful projects with students. She teaches a course called conservation and natural resources. She lets them choose what they would like for a project. Students often choose sustainable on-campus projects.

Debbie (dgrowe@oaklandcc.edu) recommended going to the faculty and ask them to help with assignments that will keep the infrastructure going on these projects. She noted that University of Delaware has a transition program for student clubs where students agree to train a replacement before they leave clubs.

You can build a resource library for students and/or a “Project in a Box” – something simple that they can just take and do.

Have a sustainability fair/volunteer and career fair to get students interested/involved. Note that Monster.com now has a green jobs section.

Ernie (Ernie.McLaney@cpcc.edu) noted that his state has an environmental education listserv. Use this. Create wildlife habitat on campus grounds = visible project.

Colleen (cahernhe@mdc.edu) – partner with local agencies to sponsor student immersions at local parks. Inspires students to do more sustainability stuff. Helps create community.

Fred (fmcewan@wilsoncc.edu) – Use president’s climate commitment to get students involved. Make them part of sustainability committee on an on going basis. Have student rep from student government on committee.

Jennifer (haywardj@lanecc.edu) noted that there have been a few successful student projects at Lane and in every case the project was originally initiated by a class. It is critical for faculty to be involved and helping.

Debbie suggested that we write an article for on student engagement for AACC. Lisa will try to do this. Jennifer can get her notes from this meeting.

4. Grants & Partnerships for Sustainability

Dave asked for ideas on how to find grants for sustainability. Participants provided the following suggestions.

- See articles & info from Higher Ed Association Sustainability Consortium - HEASC.net
- Presidents Climate Commitment ESCO loan opportunity
- Business Case for Renewable Energy Book
- HR 3637 – Funding for sustainability in Higher Ed. Contact you Senator. Ask your college President to write a letter asking your Senators to co-sponsor this act. Write a letter yourself.
- Washington State Extension Service Newsletter provides information on funding opportunities for projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, the environment, and rural/community/economic development. A new issue is distributed approx. every 3 - 4 weeks. To subscribe, send a blank message to: subscribe-funding@listserv.energy.wsu.edu.

5. Free Searchable On-line Database

Debbie is looking for a free searchable web-database where people could enter sustainability info and it is searchable.

Noelle responded that your best bet for a searchable site might be Google Groups: Example-

<http://groups.google.com/group/cascadeclimate/>

Another option is www.fmyi.com . Here's the CC site: <https://interact.fmyi.com/sites/273>.

6. IEQ Programs

Jennifer asked people to send her links from their colleges about policies, procedures, or programs related to indoor environmental quality.

7. General Conversation

Noelle (noelle.studer@pcc.edu) was in Washington DC last month. Spoke to AACC about the sustainability portion of their website. All we have to do is send content and they will put it up. Fred McEwan. (fmcewan@wilsoncc.edu) and Julie Garret (julie.garrett@sfcc.edu) will help Noelle review content before she sends it to her AACC contact.

Carolyn reported that AACC is reformatting website.

Remember to use CC Green site. Please add your name & contact info to the following list at CCgreen:

<http://ccgreen.freeforums.org/memberlist.php?sid=9cd1fa6a729408bf90982d194ea3a49f>

Notice how easy it is to click on a button and e-mail your colleagues at various CCs.

Ernie announced that there is a climate change in higher ed webcast on 12/12. Here is the url to sign up: <http://www.nytimes.whsites.net/knowledgenetwork/learning/scup-climatechange.html> .

8. Next Call

The next call was scheduled for Thursday, January 10 from 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern (10:30-11:30 Pacific).