Environmental Caucus Meeting
April 6, 2011 – 12–1:30 p.m.
ARD Large Pod


I. Introductions, and Announcements (Please contact person making announcement directly for more information, for details on events, see www.nau.edu/green, “Upcoming Events”):

- **Karin Wadsack** – Involved in scoping project for Sustainable Energy Solutions institute at NAU through end of fiscal year, Skystream wind turbine to be installed soon at ARD, also at Ponderosa High, Williams, and St. Michaels as part of Wind for Schools.
- **Jan Kerata** - recycling poll begun, can access electronically at [http://recycling.nau.edu](http://recycling.nau.edu), choosing new and more visible recycling containers, education campaign for recycling with new signs, both funded by Green Fund.
- **Eva Putzova** – Second Annual World Car-free Day in Flagstaff, 9/22/11, looking for volunteers and sponsorship.
- **Jacquelyn Vaughn** – Environmental Studies and Sciences and Politics/Intl Affairs students are looking for summer and fall internships. Advise if you have any!
- **Susan Williams** – Net Impact thanks the Green Fund for funding the water refill station project at Franke. 1000 water bottles were filled in the first week!
- **Jason Lowry** -- WACBAT working with Shared Earth Network on Earth Week kick-off event at Federated Community Church, “Bridging Campus and Community”, April 17, 2-4 pm.
- **Jon Gustafson** – working on No Impact Week, as part of the “NAU Reads” No Impact Man book this fall. Looking for story ideas for content on the website.
- **Ann Marie Chischilly** – New Executive Director for ITEP
- **Mehrdad Khatibi** – Request from Hualapai Tribe to help develop a demonstration straw bale house, looking for technical and financial resources and participants.
- **Kathy Maloney** – Final design element for “Going Green” has been approved to use for NAU student events, other sanctioned events, or activities connected to the Climate Action Plan; Undergraduate symposium on April 28, with Judy Pasternak as keynote speaker on April 2
- **Kat Sullivan** – Just returned from sustainability seminar with Sodexo.
- **Nick Koressel** – Net Impact has started an initiative to have students working with local businesses to conduct sustainability assessments. If interested, talk to Nick or to Susan Williams at FCB.
• **Abe Springer** – Please send comments on SESES Director candidates no later than Monday, 4/11; Local panel discussion on impacts of flooding from Schultz Fire, April 27, 6-8 pm, Flag High School; Deadline for commenting on uranium withdrawal has been extended to May 4.

• **Susan Thomas** - Project teams for Health and Learning Center give tours Thursdays at 4pm – Contact Paul Davila at Capital Assets.

• **Molly Munger** – Flagstaff Festival of Science, 22nd year, September 23-October 3, 2011. Opening speaker is Dr. John Grunsfeld, NASA astronaut and physicist and director of Hubbell Space Telescope Initiative. Science and Engineering Day October 1st, High Country Conference Center, theme is “Science Illuminates”. Looking for participants, could be faculty, staff, students, organizations.

II. **Environmental Caucus Business:**

   A. **Recycling Data Presentation** – Caryn Massey. Caryn presented a power point on data from recycling at NAU, 1991 - 2010. Contract with City signed in 2005, No audit in 2007 and recycling audit only in 2008. Currently 37% contamination. She has also been working on a campus pilot project to recycle sensitive documents locally with SCA Tissue. Currently 13 buildings have sensitive documents picked up and taken to MRF. Contact Caryn cm749@nau.edu for more information.

   Questions were asked regarding NAU’s declining tonnage of recycling and increasing contamination. Co-mingling has been confusing and education campaign, funded through Green Fund, is meant to help.

   T.J. Fisher – working with Melissa Phillips and Jan Kerata, Merriam Powell Center. Conducting a survey in three locations, Union, Dubois, and Cline, to determine what style bins are most appropriate. Volunteers to table during the month of April, M-F, 8 to 8. Contact TJ or Melissa.

   B. **Earth Week Update** – Bryan McLaren, Kevin Ordean: April 15-22, See list of activities at www.nau.edu/earthweek. Lots of events, please pass information on to classes and peers. Highlights:

   • Talk on Thursday, April 21, 4 pm, Cline Library – Why Go Green? with Mark Wilhelm, followed by EC Sustainability Leadership Awards.
   • Earth Day Extravaganza, Friday, April 22 at noon in Union Expansion
   • Green Room Earth Day celebration, Friday April 22, 5 pm
   • Much, much more!

   C. **EC Sustainability Leadership Awards** – 2nd annual ceremony to recognize campus leaders in sustainability among students, faculty and staff. Thursday, April 21, 5:15 pm, Cline Library. Please come and celebrate all of our hard work!

   D. **Green Fund Update**: Looking for student applicants to serve on the committee, selection committee from EC. See http://green.nau.edu/greenfund.html for details on how to apply.
E. **Sustainability position update**: New director hired for ITEP, SESES director candidates have been on campus in last few weeks and decision will be made soon, as sustainability coordinator has been selected, hiring approval is in process.

F. **NY Times Talks**: Over 60 people attended the March talk with Dr. Darrell Kaufman on the “Science and Skepticism of Climate Change”. More than 40 attended Dr. Kim Curtis' talk on “Food, Drought and Climate Change in the High Desert”. Next talk is during Earth Week, **Tuesday, April 19, 6 pm, ARD Large Pod** – “Water Sustainability in the Southwest: Is it a Pipe Dream?” with Dr. Rod Parnell. Free pizza!

Strong interest in the climate change talk sparked desire to have an inter-disciplinary panel in the fall of faculty discussing climate change from science, policy, business, engineering, artistic and other perspectives. If interested in being on the panel, contact Shelley Silbert.

G. **Ideas for future meetings**: Shelley requests feedback on how EC meetings are going and ideas about future topics and speakers. Is the format working? What might help attract more faculty? What topics should be high priority?

III. **Presentation: Developing an Institutional Model to Track Sustainability Efforts**: An Example from CIE - **Sheila Anders, Center for International Education**.

Sustainability must happen from the top down and bottom up. How does it work at departmental level with reduced finances and how do Departments measure sustainability? Sustainability assessment must happen at operational level. Must find responsible person, establish attainable goals, create a meaningful matrix (STARS-based when possible), establish incentives. Study Abroad publishes no paper flyers and is looking to go paperless, "green" ordering from campus dining, but 350 students abroad each year -- how to reduce that carbon. Look at social and economic impacts. Balancing the reality of carbon with the need to have students still go abroad.

CIE has been working on a database to assess their sustainability efforts. Not time intensive to put together the auditing list. Sustainability coordinator can work with pilot departments to work out the bugs of the system and then roll it out to the university as a whole later. CIE willing to share what they are learning and serve, with others, as a possible model for departmental tracking. For powerpoint and copy of database, contact Sheila Anders.

IV. **Action Team Check-ins**.

*Thanks to Kevin Ordean for taking meeting notes!*

**Next Meeting:**
**Thursday, May 5, 2011**
**Presentation:** Billy Parish to discuss “Solar Mosaic”