



**PRESIDENT'S
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Minutes
August 16th, 2021, 1:00-2:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Anthony Appleton, Carol Dollard, Alicia Armentrout, Anthony Rappe, Julie Kallenberger, Rodolfo Valdes, Sara Campbell, Tonie Miyamoto, Zahra Al-Saloom, Andrew Warnock, Jeff Muhs, Stacey Baumgarn, Mark Paquette, Greg Lewis, Aleta Weller, Tammy Felton, Tim Brennan, Monica Latham, Dan McGrath, Aaron Fodge, Matt Wallenstein, Brian Dunbar, Brit Heiring, Bill Timpson, Sybil Sharvelle, Shelby Sack, Ryan Scott

- 1. Courageous Strategic Transformation Sustainability Leadership Drafting Group – 5 minutes (Stacey Baumgarn)**
The plan is currently in phase 5. There are 12 different CST working groups including sustainability. There are 15 members on the sustainability drafting team. They had their first meeting and are starting to brainstorm goals and barriers. Scope includes teaching and learning and research and operations from an environmental, social justice and economic lens. 3-5 goals are the outcome for the sustainability group. Goals need to be established by September 17th to go to the Board of Governors. Aim to have it fully adopted by February.
- 2. Sustainability Fund Opening – 5 minutes (Anthony Appleton)**
This will be the second year of the PSC Sustainability Fund. There is \$25,000 to give away this year. Visit <https://green.colostate.edu/csu-sustainability-fund/> to see past funded projects and the application process. There are some projects that don't qualify including electric vehicles, LEED Buildings and Water Bottle filling stations since there are other resources/funds available (all of which is listed on the website). Anthony Appleton has office hours available to discuss the fund. August 2nd open and October 4th applications close.
- 3. Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grants – 5 minutes (Aleta Weller)**
Goal is to have an existing and standing program on-campus to infuse more sustainability into current courses. <https://sustainability.colostate.edu/education-and-training/curriculum-innovation-grants/>. Funding is \$23,000 this year. To run an RFP for faculty and must be spent out June 30th the same year. Future goals are to secure an ongoing commitment so the grant cycle can start in the winter and go for the entire year. The request for proposals for 2022 will launch on August 26th. There are slight changes to the language for team proposals and faculty who are already starting to infuse sustainability into their courses. Five proposals were awarded funds last year and were able to fully spend the funds. New project starting to create a website to share projects/resources from awardees or just in general to whoever would like to contribute resources.
- 4. STARS 2.2 data collection beginning – 15 minutes (Tonie Miyamoto)**
STARS 2.2 is a higher bar and it is time to start to collect data and will continue for the next 6 months at a minimum. We had the opportunity to submit a white paper to Joyce McConnell which included institutional learning outcomes to be a goal for the university, operational asks where we have lots of room to grow, a service-learning graduation requirement ask, and a way to track volunteering across the university. We are aiming to submit our 2.2 STARS Report in the Spring semester, so we won't make the 2022 rankings deadline (we will still be relying on our existing report). This was an intentional decision to not use our pandemic year numbers since it is an outlier compared to typical years. We will start sending data collection and information asks about current programs/events etc. so be on the lookout!
- 5. Air Travel Offset Proposal – 5 minutes (Carol Dollard)**

The working group resubmitted a proposal to create an offset to offset the carbon that is emitted when staff/faculty are traveling. The proposal includes the ask for a mandatory fee on domestic and international flights to carbon offset projects here on CSU Campus. The group hasn't heard back from the President but is hopeful to launch in 2022. This includes only air travel paid for by the university (study abroad as an example, since it is a student cost, wouldn't be included and can't be tracked). In FY20, 4.5 million was spent on air travel, in FY21 less than 400,000 was spent so the pandemic has clearly impacted air travel. We are hopeful that numbers will remain at or below FY20 as we explore more virtual options and encourage teleworking but we do expect air travel to increase significantly over FY21.

6. Carry Forward Budget Request – 5 minutes (Tonie Miyamoto)

There is \$15,000 from last year's budget available for carry forward. The chairs asked for Energy star certification for 8 campus buildings, the creation of a website to help support an employee peer-to-peer educational campaign, and a small amount for renewable energy credits to help offset some departments that could not afford to make their typical purchase this year. We hope to hear soon if our request has been approved.

7. Employee Sustainability Culture Survey – 5 minutes (Kirstie Tedrick)

PSC Engagement Sub-Committee sent out a bi-yearly survey to a representative sample of employees at CSU. This survey is to assess employee's perspective on sustainability at CSU. From the perspective of students, peers and themselves individually. There are questions about social justice, equity, inclusion and economic sustainability at CSU as well. If you received the invite to participate, please do!

8. Governor's/Chancellors Memo Request – 5 minutes (Carol Dollard)

The Governor's Office asked about our carbon emissions goals and reduction efforts as well as mass transit. Our response included building energy efficiency into existing buildings, building new buildings to be net zero, turning energy sources away from natural gas with no new combustion built in new buildings, including a lifecycle analysis cost into new construction, and valuing space and operating cost in a financial way. Resiliency and social sustainability were also included. Mass transit included Top 5 things state can do from an investment standpoint for mass transit.

9. Member updates – 30 minutes

Stacey Baumgarn - Courageous Strategic Transformation info at: <https://courageous.colostate.edu/>

Tony Rappe - Institutional Research piloting how to track institutional learning outcomes at a course level. Hopefully, next year it will be part of the accreditation process.

Julie Kallenberger – Here is our new issue of Colorado Water newsletter on Climate and our graduate seminar starting on Monday - you do not need to enroll for credit to attend any/all of the lectures. Here are the links for both:

<https://watercenter.colostate.edu/water-news/>, <https://watercenter.colostate.edu/grad592/>

Aaron Fodge – Opening up brand new trails from student fees and new buildings. Old Shepardson, new trail through the Monfort Quad. Lake street all the way to the oval. There is also a new trail at the Foothills Campus. We received a new grant to redo trail between Chemistry and Visual arts.

Zahra Al-Saloom – Sustainability Living Association are starting the sustainable business program (revising ClimateWise). City of FC Murals Project is completed, and a wonderful local artist has painted three traffic boxes (<https://sustainablelivingassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ClimateWise-Murals.pdf>)

<https://sustainablelivingassociation.org/sustainable-business-program/>

Carol – 21 new solar arrays being installed. Two on Laurel Village buildings are almost done and online. Pitkin Street parking garage and Equine hospital are almost finished. ARDEC will be done mid-September and double as a sheep pasture.

Brian Dunbar – City of Fort Collins asked them what the feasibility of expanding the MAX further through Fort Collins.

Sara Campbell – CSU Foundation is meeting in September and will be discussing sustainability investment. More in-depth meeting in November.

Tonie – August 30th students will be invited to take a Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging module. This module will take around 40 minutes to complete. The pilot had very positive feedback and faculty/staff are invited to use the module in

courses and student employee development. Module is optional. We have met with the company to explore a sustainability module as a new project. <https://racebiasandequityinitiative.colostate.edu/diversitymodule/>