



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

Minutes  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00-2:30 pm  
**Virtual**

1. Introductions – 5 minutes
  - a. Carol Dollard, Kirstie Tedrick, Grace Wright, Julie Kallenberger, Sara Campbell, Tony Rappe, Tonie Miyamoto, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Stacey Baumgarn, Alicia Armentrout, Brian Dunbar, Bryn Hall, Tim Brennan, Jocelyn Hittle, Anthony Appleton, Farrah Bustamante, Aaron Fodge, Sybil Sharvelle, Jacob VanderRoest, Andrew Warnock, Mark Gokavi, Colleen Duncan, Adam Vance, Mark Ritschard, Mark Paquette
  - b. We have some membership updates to share. Tony Rappe is stepping down as a member of PSC, he was the chair of the Academic and Research Subcommittee and has been part of the commission since conception! Matt Wallenstein is leaving as well and had great contributions to the creation of the CST. Julie Kallenberger is also stepping down and was an active member of the commission and the Engagement Subcommittee for several years. You all have had lasting impacts on this commission and will be missed!
  
2. Better Climate Challenge – 15 minutes
  - a. DOE (Department of Energy) has a Better Building Program that has existed for a while, and we have been part of it for some time. This is a new program to set goals and climate commitments, CSU recently committed to this. It went all the way up to President McConnell and she gave the challenge her blessing to help guide us to our commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas footprint by half by 2030.
  - b. DOE asked CSU to present on this challenge for the AASHE Conference alongside other institutions.
  - c. By the way, the deadline is Friday for any submissions to the AASHE Conference
  - d. You can watch the video of the kick-off event titled "Watch Executive Roundtable" - President McConnell was one of just a handful of national leaders invited to speak at the event. Her remarks start at ~33 minutes into the video. <https://betterbuildingsolutioncenter.energy.gov/climate-challenge>
  - e. Potential summit coming together but not many details are in place just yet
  - f. Source Story: <https://source.colostate.edu/csu-among-first-universities-to-join-does-better-climate-challenges-pledge-to-half-carbon-emissions-by-2030/>
  
3. Growing Food Security Project and Zero Waste Team are seeking funding from ASCSU – 15 minutes
  - a. Growing Food Security Project – started by students during COVID times and started growing produce to support students and community members experiencing food insecurity
  - b. Both the Growing Project and Zero Waste Team are volunteer groups led by students for students
  - c. Request was sent to offer support and funding for these groups moving forward
  - d. Food insecurity and composting are always top of mind for students according to our sustainability survey responses
  - e. Idea is to eventually have both groups be paid in addition to moving towards a living lab designation, be educational but also be a funded position.
  - f. Other living labs examples include The Spoke with student bike mechanics, the Horticulture Center Partnership with a Horticulture Intern who manages practicum students that grow produce for the

dining halls, Oscar the Composter with a student intern and a faculty advisor, and the bee hives on campus.

- g. Each living lab has a faculty/staff advisor, is led by students, and uses university operations as a hands-on living opportunity.
- h. Anthony Appleton shared an article illustrating that students being compensated for their time is a critical component in making experiences like this inclusive:  
<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/71/7/757/6213241?login=false>

#### 4. Earth Month Marketing – 15 minutes

- a. Earth Month poster will have a sampling of events for the month but also have a QR code to access the entire list of events on [green.colostate.edu](http://green.colostate.edu).
- b. Also included in the Earth Month marketing materials are a digital sign, web banner and social post. These will be sent out hopefully by the end of the week.
- c. We were able to request a poster run at LSC and will be delivering the posters to run through Earth Month
- d. ASCSU has some events that include handing out LED Lightbulbs and patches. They are also hoping to order some succulents to be able to handout. They will be active on the plaza throughout Earth Month and will do some marketing on their own in addition to the Earth Month materials.
- e. There will be several CSU Instagram takeovers during Earth Month and Tonie will be reaching out soon to ask for students who would like to be involved with those going off the Earth Month weekly themes.
- f. PSC Milestones event – we will be sending a formal invitation email towards the end of the week. Please RSVP to Tonie if you plan to attend.

#### 5. STARS 2.2 Credits:

- a. Academic course assessment – 10 minutes
  - i. Tony – email was sent to Janelle offering our help to come up with a survey for CST with her and Andrea Duffy and agreed it should be done this semester. Next step for the course survey is having a meeting with IRIS. We have a goal for 80% of our courses to be inclusive of sustainability learning outcomes and we want this survey to create a baseline. The tentative plan is to send out this semester.
  - ii. Ideally this survey will be sent to all faculty/instructors rather than just the deans of each college.
  - iii. STARS Goal for this credit: An institution earns the maximum of 8 points for Part 1 of this credit if 20 percent or more of all courses offered are sustainability-focused or sustainability-inclusive. An institution earns the maximum of 6 points for Part 2 of this credit when 90 percent or more of academic departments offer at least one sustainability-focused or sustainability-inclusive course.
  - iv. Please let us know if your college is participating in a similar survey since we want to have the data be useful for everyone and not reinvent the wheel or cause survey fatigue. We could potentially stagger the survey or at least try to have not too much overlap with existing surveys for faculty.
- b. Data collection for student volunteering – 10 minutes
  - i. Are there any service learning or volunteering in any of the courses that are required for students and if so, how many students and hours are contributed?
  - ii. There isn't a database for volunteering hours for courses like the SLICE office, fraternity and sorority, and Athletics have.
  - iii. Could this ask be included in the survey to faculty about sustainability courses, they would just need to report on hours and number of students participated.
  - iv. Potentially need to utilize 2019 hours instead of the most current year for the volunteer hours due to COVID impacts.
- c. Moving Forward we will continue to bring STARS credits forward to PSC each meeting.

6. Member Updates – 20 minutes

- a. Kirstie - Registration for a booth at the Earth Day Festival is live – register at [green.colostate.edu](https://green.colostate.edu). Mountain Duo is the band performing.
- b. Carol – Thank you for the feedback on the Climate Action Plan and we are hoping to have a final version very soon. Hopefully will be shared soon to PSC and uploaded to the website.
- c. Stacey – CSU GRN RAM network. This is an employee sustainability peer-to-peer educators’ program. About 26 people are signed up and would like to see an employee from every department/unit/college at CSU. Please contact Stacey if you are interested in participating in this program!
  - i. <https://green.colostate.edu/employee-engagement/>
- d. Colleen - CMBS has some labs but would like to pursue reframing them to be a living lab instead. Just wanted to see if there was a formal definition or not. There is a formal definition in STARS focused on student-led programs. This is a good point that it would be nice to have some definition for what CSU qualifies as a living lab.
- e. Brian Dunbar – IBE is working on North College MAX extension and has made some progress. E. Mulberry to be more pedestrian-friendly project with the city. Working on two local community development projects for affordable and attainable housing (W. of Campus and Lemay) advocating for sustainability features in these projects. Attainable housing for CSU employees being targeted for property on Timberline (South of Drake and East of that). Percentage of those homes will be available for only CSU staff.
- f. More about CSU Employee Housing Programs: <https://hr.colostate.edu/employee-housing-programs/>
- g. Aaron - Conceptual Review memo from PSC was received by Administration.