



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

Minutes

January 8th, 1:00-2:30 pm

Virtual

- Introductions – 5 min
 - Jessica Thrasher, Tonie Miyamoto, Kirstie Tedrick, Jennifer Williams, Kacy Paul, Greg Lewis, Tim Brennan, Jacob VanderRoest, Ryan Scott, Mark Ritschard, Mark Paquette, Mindy Hill, Mary Liang, Farrah Bustamante, Andrew Warnock, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Stacey Baumgarn, Aleta Weller, Sybil Sharvelle, Colleen Duncan, Ryan Scott, Lynsey Bosch, Mark Gokavi, Jocelyn Hittle, Reagan Fields.
 - Welcome Jessica Thrasher to PSC!
- Sustainability Culture Survey – 20 min
 - We went over some of the highlights of the report. You can view the results here: <https://green.colostate.edu/assessment/>
 - Sustainability is important to CSU – 93% of students, faculty, and staff agree.
 - CSU students and employees also continue to report that sustainability is personally important, with 95% of students and 97% of employees strongly or somewhat agreeing.
 - Students identified solar and wind energy production, increasing energy efficiency, and alternative transportation options as the top 3 sustainability initiatives they'd like to see at CSU. Employees identified requiring CSU events to be zero-waste, more education on campus composting, and improving single stream recycle and waste diversion as the most important initiatives.
 - A possible area where CSU could improve its efforts related to sustainability is providing more guidance to both students and employees related to how to launch initiatives on campus. We discussed adding a contact button for ideas on green.colostate.edu.
 - CSU continues to improve in its rates of students and employees saying that CSU is successful at communicating that the university operates on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne and Ute Nations and Peoples.
 - Please let Kirstie know if you have any questions or ideas about this survey.
- Upcycled Wind Turbine Blades – 10 min (Lynsey Bosch)
 - https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-11-17/upcycled-wind-turbine-blades-become-park-benches-planters?mc_cid=c7d5e96ca7&mc_eid=2321e27daf
 - The Energy Institute is considering this idea for Powerhouse 2 or potentially getting rid of their lawn at the institute.
 - While this bench is not a standard on campus, it can be included in a new building update or incorporated into existing outside spaces as an art/sustainability feature. It just needs to go through the Physical Development Committee for review. This is similar to how the utility boxes are painted to look nicer or having the painted pianos around Fort Collins.
 - Mary – HDS is currently planning the Allison Hall renovation and it could be a consideration there.
 - There are plenty of wind turbines in the local area (i.e. Wyoming) that are in the process of being recycled and coming to end-of-life.

- Campus Race to Zero Waste – 10 minutes (Jennifer Williams)
 - The competition is from January 28th – March 23rd and CSU reports weekly during the competition.
 - CSU participates in the following categories: Landfill waste, single-stream recycling, cardboard, and compost weights as well as the per-capita diversion rate (pounds of waste per person).
 - Last year out of 90 schools across the nation, CSU placed 15th overall.
 - We report the data sent back to us from the Larimer County Landfill and Recycling Center and report on the compost data ourselves.
 - How do we get employees on board knowing that waste diversion is a top priority?
 - Source article listicle – Top 10 ways to support Campus Race to Zero Waste
 - Tips for spring cleaning in offices
 - We do have engagement with the students through our Zero Waste Sorting Game (drag and drop waste sorting game) through the Eco Leaders program. They engage all the residence halls and Aggie Village in sorting their waste responsibly.
 - Jennifer shared that one contamination issue is hardbound books in recycling (the paper inside can be recycled but not the hard covers).
 - Should we have our annual Waste Audit?
 - Students are moving away from waste sorting as a focus.
 - Results are more useful than participating and being visible to students/employees.
 - Late January/early February timeframe is also challenging. Maybe schedule later in the semester but not during Earth Day Festival to have the results at the festival.

- Member Updates - 25 min
 - Jacob & Aleta COP28 UAE Conference Update - Here's some info on CSU's presence at the UN climate conference in Dubai. Full list of events/delegates/talks on [CSU's COP28 page](#). (Also fun highlight from rep DeGette visiting the CSU booth in this [CPR News article](#) and see [Jacob's Q&A here](#).) The CSU exhibit was during the second week. CSU hosted a side event coordinated with other organizations. Jacob gave a brief slideshow highlighting hundreds of events going on at once each day. He went to a lot of panels with a diversity of topics, including climate negotiations with UN representatives. Saw some awesome speakers including John Kerry, Sarah Kapnick, Michael Regan, and Al Gore. Lots of youth presence and Jacob gave a presentation on youth engagement on college campuses.
 - Tonie – A consulting firm was on campus in December to look at utility infrastructure and potential development on campus. They want to consider the energy infrastructure that we currently have on-campus in their planning for any new development. They toured the heating and chilling plants and reviewed what would need to happen to meet our climate action plan goals. Shared plans related to retiring natural gas boilers that are reaching end-of-life with an electrified hot water system, expanded geoexchange, and combining heating and chilling plants for efficiency. Not sure when/if this may move forward but it was a nice opportunity to highlight our opportunities and plans.
 - Aleta – RFP is open for SoGES Global Challenges Research Teams: <https://sustainability.colostate.edu/global-challenges-research-team-rfp/>. Please share widely. The curriculum grant had a ton of applications for both climate and general sustainability proposals. They are currently in the process of reviewing submissions. They should have an update in the next few weeks.
 - Mark Gokavi – MarComm is doing a series of Enterprise Packages this year with April being climate change. Mark is searching for an outward-facing research project to highlight. If there is any newer research or about-to-be published research, please share with Mark.
 - Mary – Our in-vessel composter, OSCAR, is approaching end-of-life and exploring what we want our next composter to be (in-vessel vs. windrow vs. anything else). Let Mary know if you have any thoughts or questions!
 - Tonie - CSU Milestones call for nominations is officially open. This is our annual opportunity to celebrate sustainability achievements for groups or organizations on campus. You can submit on the home page

here: <https://green.colostate.edu/>. Sustainability fund recipients will also be recognized at the event and will give a very brief overview of their project. A save the date invite will be sent out soon.

- Kirstie - Earth Month events – please send any programs/events to Tonie or Kirstie!
 - LSC Room reservations – we have held three rooms in LSC for Earth Day programs/sessions. Rooms are held April 22nd between 10:30 – 2:00. Please reach out to Kirstie if you are interested in securing a room.