PCC Notes
January 7, 2013

Present: Graves, Schmidt, Martin, Messer, Miles, Noltemeyer, Williams

Preston reported conversation with Gary Bugg concerning our committee’s interest in adding more parking slots for HEV. Mr. Bugg has reservations about this change: (1) since the reserved space would have to be in desirable locations, this change would limit access to desirable locations for majority of employees/students, (2) as competition for desirable HEV locations becomes higher, Public Safety staff would have to become more vigilant and discerning in enforcement. With these perspectives, our discussion moved back to the original proposal – a reduction to the parking fee for students that register an HEV. The arguments we see are: (1) this wouldn’t cost the College very much in reduced parking fee income, (2) this would not be a significant motivator to a student’s car purchasing decisions, (b) but this would provide visibility and promotion of the benefits of HEV. We will have additional discussion of this question at February meeting.

Patrick N. is leading our group in planning Green Week activities. Patrick began our discussion by first asking that we identify the goals we hope to achieve during green week. Our goals were: (1) increase awareness campus-wide of sustainability efforts that are already in place, (2) increase participation by all stakeholders in conservation/recycling practices, (3) increase visibility of campus organizations involved in sustainability efforts, (4) increase understanding of sustainability principles, (5) understanding of climate change issues, (6) awareness of urgency of GGH mitigation efforts. Working from those goals, we began developing some possible activities and events that might achieve our goals. The suggestions were: President’s Sustainability Convo, Apr 23, Mitchell Thomashow; the movie “Island Presidents”, R.A. hall programs (CEA or others would develop a script for R.A. to use); nature hikes; community service projects; an acoustic concert (Emma), a clothing swap (this suggestion got high enthusiasm); asking faculty to do something green in class; a “don’t drive” week; making an informational video. Anyone with additional suggestions or interested in leading some part of these activities is encouraged to contact Patrick. Some very preliminary discussion of assessment.

Scott demonstrated the Vendmiser equipment that was recently purchased through the Air Travel Mitigation Fund. The six devices will be installed on vending machines to “power down” the machines at night, weekend, and other low-use periods. We estimate that each of the $165 devices will save 1,600 kWh per year, will save $120 per year, and will avoid emission of 17 tons CO₂ per year.

Emma brought to us three questions. Institutional affiliation with AASHE, divestment of endowment investments from corporations involved in fossil fuels, and the opportunity to join the Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition.

AASHE. In discussion of affiliation with AASHE, the conversation expanded to include affiliation with ACUPCC and also participation in the STARS program. AASHE dues would be about $1,100. Barrie suggested that requests to Student Government Association normally are
submitted in the spring, though special funding requests in the fall are sometimes supported. The new ENS major makes this more attractive.

**Divestment.** This is the more difficult question. In discussion we identified several perspectives. In response to a question about how students could communicate with the Board, Patrick suggested via the SGA report or maybe better would be to contact President Roush for advice. Bill McKibben and 350.org are promoting this to colleges and universities.

**KSEC.** Since KSEC is a student organization, this should probably be pursued via the Centre Environmental Association. Ella will take this to CEA executive meeting Jan 10.

Elizabeth G. brought up the Sustainable_Centre web-site. Several sections are out of date and need attention. Elizabeth has since reviewed the “News and Current Events” tab and found that nothing has been added for some time, but there have been 3 or 4 web stories that could be added easily. The “Buildings” tab has nothing about Brockman Commons. Preston discovered the listing of committee members has not been updated. Preston will follow up with John Rusnak.

We discussed the idea of pulling together a proposal for membership in AASHE/ACUPCC/STARS. One benefit would be the self-knowledge possible through STARS. Another advantage is providing information to ratings & ranking organizations like Princeton Review and Sierra Club magazine. But in addition to dollar costs there are also time commitments. We will gather information and continue this discussion in February.

Scott reminded us of the RecycleMania competition. Centre has registered to participate. The period is Feb 3 through Mar 30 (7 weeks).

Barrie brought up the water bottle filling stations. The Campus Improvements committee of SGA is still interested in this. We will get price quotes for a couple of possible locations in Young Hall.

Annual report/updates to EPA Green Power Partner program and Arbor Day Foundation TreeCampus USA program were submitted on time.