

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM

Osceola Campus 1-219B, Tuesday September 17th, 2019 @ 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Attendees: Marty Campbell, Jose Fernandez, Edie Gaythwaite, Gary Kokaisel, Shara Lee, Brian Macon, Amy Matson, Ella Raynor.

West Campus 10-3rd floor (CDC), Thursday September 26, 2019 @ 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Attendees: Rennia Adams, Karen Cowden, Ellie Danforth, Garmanthe Etienne, Neisa Farley, Jose Fernandez, Javier Garces, Edie Gaythwaite, Bob Gessner, Michael Masucci, April Montallana, Karen Murray, Jonathan Noto, Margaret Othwolo, Aaron Powell, Cheryl Robinson, Andy Sorrow, James Vrhovac, Arlene Willis, Michael Winters.

East Campus 3-113, Tuesday October 1, 2019 @ 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Attendees: Roger Corriveau, Christopher Evans, Jose Fernandez, Edie Gaythwaite, Jordan Lind, Lisa Macon, Saribel Mateo, Sal Navarro, Dominic Pimentel, Jessi Pringle, Stacy Ramos, Stanton Reed, Tim Shattuck, Jacqueline Monique Tetrault, Sylvana Vester, Lenore Walker, Richard Weinsier, Celena Ziems.

Combined Meeting Minutes

1) New Sustainability Faculty Fellow Introduction: Dr. Edie Gaythwaite

2) Sustainable Operations Update (Carrie Black). *Presentation attached.*

a. Energy

- i. Spring Break Shutdown Competition
- ii. City of Orlando Building Energy & Water Efficiency Strategy (BEWES) Reporting
- iii. OSC CIT: Tracking 2 Green Globes for Green Building certification
- iv. Developing Building Targets
- v. **Energy Efficiency Projects-** Developing an energy efficiency project submission program for students, faculty, and staff to submit ideas for ways that Valencia can improve energy efficiency or save on operational costs related to the consumption of energy and water.
- vi. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGe) Inventory & Climate Action Plan

vii. Discussion:

- i. **Birds & Window Strikes:** This concern was raised and as many of our newer buildings have a large proportion of windows this becomes an issue that can affect many of our buildings.

- We have reached out to Grounds to collect data on the number of birds they find college-wide that appear to have died due to window strikes.
- Green Globes for New Construction, by the Green Building Initiative does include bird collisions in considerations under ecological impacts on the building site.

b. Waste & Recycling

- Graduation Cap & Gown**- Valencia's are made from 23 post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.
 - Looking into recycling or reusing the gowns used at graduation.
- Hand Dryers Project**- After receiving feedback, on hold.
- Food Scrap Program**- At West Campus, unwanted, leftover food can be scrapped into a food waste bin to go to an anaerobic digester to produce electricity. Currently limited to West due to partnership with City of Orlando and it must be within city limits. Once well established, hoping to identify additional partnerships to offer it at other campuses.

c. Transportation

- Ridesharing
- Downtown Campus
- Lynx PawPass: Information about program- <https://net1.valenciacollege.edu/lynx/>
 - Ridership Information: FY18-19: 464,771 trips.

d. Grounds

- Tree Campus USA Event: November at EAC
- OSC Landscape Master Plan

e. Students

- Campus Earth Day Events
- Valencia Earth Sciences Association (VESA)

3) **Sustainable Operations Vision and Objectives** – *See attached presentation.*

4) **Floor open to participants for discussion:**

Waste & Recycling

- **Bookstore Bags:** Looking into options to reduce or introduce alternative option.

- **Textbook recycling:** Look into options for textbook recycling. WEC library already aware of options for recycling/reusing books they are removing from shelves.
- **Plastic Writing Instrument and Battery Recycling program:** We had been getting a lot of batteries. Also, for the vendors we use for the two types of items (batteries and the markers), it takes longer to fill the larger boxes for the markers. Since the end of the spring semester: 305 lbs. of batteries have been collected and 18 lbs. of plastic writing instruments.
- **Food Related Ideas to reduce waste:**
 - Reusable- Incentives or programs to encourage use of reusable cups, cutlery, and containers.
 - Straws- Continuing to ensure paper straws are provided in our cafeterias and working to expand this offering with our larger brands on-campus (i.e. Starbucks and Dunkin’).
- **Events**
 - In Student Development’s lists for food vendors and supplies, adding more sustainable options or component to the list, such as paper is better than plastic and encouraging waste reduction.
 - Offering recycling at events and ensuring proper recycling is occurring, potentially with waste locations being staffed by volunteers to assist attendees.
 - Conduct post-event waste audits.
 - Rethinking tabling giveaways- Much of the time the giveaways at tabling events end up in the trash soon after or are blown away, end up in the grounds on-campus. Potentially fewer and better giveaways could be raffled off. Additionally, digital badges could be used to identify students having attended different events or associated with different groups and students could learn more about each other and connect.
- **Advertising and education**
 - Need to educate on what goes in the recycling bin and what doesn’t. Make any advertising or information on this eye-catching.
 - Better distinctions between the bins would be helpful. Maybe a different color around the opening for one side.
 - Educate on what happens when things aren’t properly disposed of on campus (i.e. ends up in lake or even as building material in a bird’s nest) and the resulting products from the recycling process, like our graduation gowns.
 - Get students involved in educating about recycling- classes in our arts and film department could create PSAs. Marketing classes could assist us.
 - Visual for students: Put on display in common area the landfill waste generated in a set period of time, in order to realize how much is produced and educate on reduce, reuse, and how to properly recycle.
 - Historically, grounds has saved the waste collected from around campus grounds for one week and piled it up in the SSB patio for students to see how much waste doesn’t make it into a bin.

- **Participate in RecycleMania:** This competition for higher education occurs every spring semester with multiple categories, all aimed at improving recycling rates or reducing waste generation. Valencia has participated in this previously. This would be a great initiative to form a team to work on.
- **Issue raised:** Recycling isn't offered at home for many of our students and employees, particularly in multi-family unit communities.
 - Within the City of Orlando: For communities that don't offer recycling within the city, city staff can assist with working with the appropriate community personnel to explore how recycling can be offered. If this applies to you, please [contact Joseph at Joseph.England@cityoforlando.net](mailto:Joseph.England@cityoforlando.net) to get started.
 - Outside of Orlando: How can Valencia, working with local partners, assist with addressing this issue so that members of the Valencia community can recycle at school and at home?
- **Need more landfill and recycling bins, particularly in strategic spots, like near vending machines, and better animal proofing for exterior bins.**
 - Also, more bins in parking lots. **Note:** Upon initial follow-up research, bins were in parking lots at some locations and were removed, partly due to lots of trash from vehicles being emptied into the bins causing overflow issues, as well as animal issues.
- **Downtown Campus Recycling:** There are no recycling bins in common areas in the dorm areas. Students stack cardboard by the trash chute. **Update Note:** The recycling bins and labels were ordered late and have taken several weeks to arrive. We anticipate an early November launch of full recycling services.

Transportation

- **West Campus & Multi-Use Pathways.** The funds for this pathway required about three years of the annual designated funds. We are working with the City and MetroWest HOA to identify additional locations for expanding multi-use paths in the area and connecting them to ours.
 - Discussed the need for more signage about the path, intended users, and blind spots.
- **PawPass:** Need to advertise PawPass App more, potentially including paper flyers or brochures to give to students. Website for PawPass: <https://net1.valenciacollege.edu/lynx/>
- **Lynx:** Small Lynx stop at East needs more lighting.
- **ReThink Your Commute App:** Need for better instructions within the app on how to use it once you open it for the first time. Carrie to share with ReThink team.

- **Electric Vehicles (EVs):** As we are moving towards expanding the number of charging stations college-wide, a great way to showcase and educate about electric vehicles is with [National Drive Electric events](#). These typically occur in September and Valencia has previously hosted some.

Communication/Advertising/ Engagement

- **Calendars and events:** Have events automatically go to a calendar in Canvas, or put a planner or events calendar in the Valencia app. This could help eliminate the numerous calendars. The Valencia website calendar (<https://events.valenciacollege.edu/>) is another source of advertising events at the College.
- **Need for continued advertising of programs and initiatives:** From the PawPass app and that Valencia graduation gowns are made from 23 post-consumer recycled plastic bottles to the food scrap collection program on West. Use a platform that students use every day, like Canvas, and make it visually attractive and appealing.
- **Getting student leaders involved:** Have sustainability positions in SGA at all campuses, not just OSC. Have SGA leaders attend forums and help lead on sustainability issues. Create incentives for groups and students to get involved in sustainability.
- **Make sustainability cool:**
 - Bring in speakers to discuss careers in sustainability.
 - Showcase the fun and cool aspects of sustainability such as Teslas, sustainable fashion.

Grounds

- **Native landscapes and creating habitats for wildlife.**
 - Need to grow the bird population on campuses, particularly on West. One solution is through intentional planting of natives- trees and plants. However, there are also healthy populations of raccoons and cats on some campuses that can affect bird numbers and their locations within a campus.