



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

Meeting Minutes
October 7, 1:00-2:30 pm

Teams

In Attendance:

1. Grace Wright (College of Business)
2. Mark Paquette (Athletics)
3. Carol Dollard (Facilities Management)
4. Stacey Baumgarn (Facilities)
5. Tim Brennan (Health and Human Sciences)
6. Jake Drenth (Surplus Property)
7. Emily Schmieding (Human Dimensions of Natural Resources)
8. Mark Ritschard (Engineering)
9. Lynsey Bosch (Energy Institute)
10. Matthew Selje (Athletics)
11. April Shelton (OVPR)
12. Jacob VanderRoest (Graduate Student Council)
13. Tonie Miyamoto (Division of Student Affairs)
14. Aleta Weller (SOGES)
15. Mary Liang (Housing and Dining Services)
16. Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez (Health and Human Sciences)
17. Byran Dunbar (Institute for the Built Environment)
18. Aaron Fodge (Parking and Transportation Services)
19. Kate Colins (ASCSU)
20. Farrah Bustamante (Procurement)
21. Cate Collins (ASCSU Environmental Affairs)

Meeting Notes:

1. Introductions and Welcome – 5 min

- a. Welcome to Matthew Selje, who will be taking over for Mark Paquette as the Athletics rep

2. CSU Sustainability Fund Now Open – Mary

- a. Total Funding Available: \$25,000
- b. SOURCE Article: [Read More](#)
- c. Proposal Information:
 - i. Proposals can request up to \$10,000.
 - ii. Open to all CSU students, faculty, and staff.

- iii. Projects are encouraged to align with listed priority areas, though proposals outside these areas are also welcome.

d. Deadline: November 1. Application and Details: [CSU Sustainability Fund](#)

3. EV Grants Now Open - Aaron

- a. Funding: \$75,000 in grants is available to support departments in purchasing electric vehicles (EVs) and retiring internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.
- b. STARS Scoring: EV purchases improve CSU's STARS score and lowering the carbon footprint of the CSU fleet by increasing the ratio of EVs to the overall vehicle fleet.
- c. Goals: To incentivize departments to transition to EVs and promote sustainable fleet management across campus.
- d. Additional Support: Tiffany Glover can provide guidance on available EV options through the state vehicle list.
- e. Deadline: April 15 for submissions. Application and details here: <https://green.colostate.edu/csu-sustainability-fund/#tab2>

4. 2025 CAP Update - Carol

- a. **CSU's Climate Action Plan** targets carbon neutrality by 2040 and achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Currently, we are halfway through the CAP timeline.
 - i. Proposed Change: Proposal to focus goals on target Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, tracking Scope 3 separately (which covers commuting and procurement), allowing more concentrated efforts on energy usage and operational emissions and to address that Scope 3 emissions tracking continues to evolve, making it difficult to track apples to apples year over year.
 - 1. Discussion: Members discussed the impact of removing Scope 3. Bryan Dunbar supported the proposal, trusting Carol's judgment. Grace raised concerns about whether this change would diminish efforts on scope 3 progress, including commuting and procurement. Carol clarified that tracking on Scope 3 will continue, but will be separated from Scope 1 & 2. Stacey also noted that this proposed change is consistent with other universities and commitments (DOE Better Buildings, etc.)
- b. **Campus Energy Conversion:** CSU's main campus heating system relies on a century-old, natural gas-fired steam system. A proposed upgrade to a heat pump system could cut natural gas usage in half and save \$100 million over 60 years. The estimated cost is \$280 million.
 - i. Members with finance expertise or other expertise that might help accelerate progress are invited to explore strategies.
 - ii. Aaron suggested UFFAB might help finance large-scale energy projects. It was used to help with the Glover building and might be the backbone for potentially financing a bond. Typically that goes to a building, but haven't usually approached it as a utility.

5. Proposal for Climate Resiliency Assessment and Work Group – Carol and Stacey

- a. Proposal: Integrate climate resiliency into the CAP. The first step is a baseline assessment to identify CSU's current strengths and areas for improvement in climate resilience.
- b. Next Steps: After the assessment, the PSC will form a work group to integrate findings into CSU's campus plans. Members of the work group may include students, faculty, and staff outside of PSC. Marc Barker and Gargi Duttgupta have expressed interest in serving.
- c. Framework: Rodolfo inquired about the framework, with Stacey explaining that the assessment aligns with Second Nature's framework and the STARS 3.0 credit requirements.
- d. Vote: Motion to form the work group was approved with 13 votes in favor, achieving a quorum.

6. STARS 3.0 Team Recruitment – Carol & Tonie

- a. Need: The STARS team lost a key member, Kirstie Tedrick, who handled areas like academic and external engagement credits. With a small team in place, more members are needed to meet the January 2025 kickoff and the report's year-long timeline.
- b. Responsibilities: Team members meet bi-weekly with tasks in between. Skills needed include research, problem-solving, and familiarity with CSU's sustainability initiatives. Team members need to commit to working from January through December 2025.
- c. Compensation: Modest budget available for supplemental pay or departmental buy-out of time.
- d. Interest: Emily Schmieding & Lynsey Bosch expressed interest and Tonie will reach out to share some additional information.

7. Carbon Countdown Game Checkout – Tonie

- a. The Carbon Countdown board game allows players to bring the climate action plan at CSU to life and work to reduce carbon emissions at the university. The PSC has six copies of the game, which can accommodate up to 48 players (8 players per game, in teams of 2). Interested parties can check out the game at green.colostate.edu/carbon-countdown.
- b. Play time: Approximately 45 minutes.

8. Member Updates – All

- a. Cate is working with City of Fort Collins (Jacob Castillo, Chief Sustainability Officer) to develop a CSU-specific sustainability contact guide.
 - i. Tonie worked with MarComm this summer to update the [CSU sustainability experts list](#). Climate Change initiative also has a list.
 - ii. Email Cate at ascsu_environmental_affairs@colostate.edu
- b. Zero Waste Team: DSA Sustainability piloted a paid model for student waste coordinators, compensating at \$17/hr. They collected 170 lbs of compost at the President's Fall Address and University Picnic. The goal is to be able to pay students and develop a model that is financially self-sustainable.
 - i. Event organizers requesting compost bins through Facilities Events will automatically notify the Zero Waste Team. For independent requests, email csuzerowasteteam@gmail.com.