



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

Agenda

August 11, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Teams and LSC, Room 304-6

Attendees: Mary Liang, Tonie Miyamoto, Grace Wright , Carol Dollard, Aaron Fodge, Greg Lewis, Mike Singleton, Debbie Meisinger, Jake Drenth, Stacey Baumgarn, Monica Latham, Amber Sanchez, Matthew Selje, Lynsey Bosch, Aleta Weller, Ashley Keeton, April Shelton

Welcome and Introductions – All (5 min)

CSU is now a Gold Level Member of the Colorado Green Business Network

- Gold-level recognition received after successfully obtaining the Colorado Green Business Network certification. Thank you to Stacey for submitting the application!
- CSU is the only higher education institution in Colorado recognized as a Gold-level member.
- This achievement places CSU among some of the most well-known organizations in Colorado including Denver Water, Denver Zoo, Kaiser Permanente, and National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 - 56 Bronze members
 - 66 Silver members
 - 35 Gold members
- The recognition provides opportunities to expand relationships and potentially host a CGBN event at SPUR
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hkEmkfmBgKyyk9HHHdoIEIQmGGGGuAnE/view>

Sustainability Fund Committee Recruitment – Mary (5 min)

- Each year, PSC funds are available as seed funding for sustainability proposals on campus. This year, \$25K is available.
 - A committee is designated to review project proposals annually.
 - If interested in joining the committee, reach out to Mary.

- Review process involves approximately a dozen proposals.
- Commitment is estimated at 5 to 10 hours max (overall).
- Proposals are submitted by faculty, staff, and students from across campus.

Zero Waste Team Available for Events – Tonie (5 min)

- To request the Zero Waste Team at your event, visit:
<https://studentaffairs.colostate.edu/book-zero-waste-team/>
- Currently the Zero Waste team has several events scheduled: Ag Day Tailgate, President’s Fall Address, Move In, Ram Welcome, and meeting soon with Athletics about Game Day and Vball games
- We have strong Co-Presidents this year in Liri and Brooke with 10 student employees on board. The team is enthusiastic about events and they can do any size of an event at the LSC, Oval, etc. This is a great contribution to the university and can significantly reduce waste.
- We would like to have a min of 2 weeks heads up on an event so that managers and coordinators can plan accordingly
- Zero Waste team are both a student org and on payroll through DSA Sustainability

District Energy Conversion Updates and Messaging – Mike and Grace (10 min)

- The current system is outdated (19th-century technology), and its replacement is necessary. We’re aiming for the most fiscally responsible solution, which will also enhance campus sustainability. This is THE project to advance our Climate Action Plan goals.
- We are still working out the funding plan for this project, which includes 6 or 7 phases.
- Our goal is to develop a cost-effective approach by identifying which buildings will generate the greatest utility savings.
 - Financial savings are expected to start in year four, though immediate utility savings will also be noticeable.
- We are exploring tools to differentiate funding sources, alongside considering bonding options and exploring funding opportunities with the state.
- We plan to engage our new PSC DEC Communications Working Group to inform students and employees about the project and its implications. This year’s focus is on education and raising awareness about the project while we continue to pursue funding.

- Aaron reminded folks that the fleet is currently housed where the chill towers are proposed so it's important to keep Transportation engaged in next steps.

New Capital Project Proposal Process- Mike

- Facilities Management is creating a new process to prioritize projects.
- A scoring matrix is currently being developed, which may include sustainability considerations for projects.
- We are still refining the grading criteria for sustainability, involving 1-5 objectives.
- The draft of this process will be shared with university leadership for their feedback and input -- more updates to come!
- Incorporating sustainability is a significant achievement in this process – thank you for advocating Mike!

STARS Input Needed? – All (10 min)

- Our STARS report is approximately 25% complete – thank you STARS Team!! We are in month 7 and will continue to work on this throughout the fall semester with plans to submit to AASHE no later than early November.
- We need a sustainability case study or award submitted in the past three years:
 - “Has the institution submitted a case study during the previous year to an external higher education sustainability resource center or awards program?”
 - Please send ideas to Lynsey Bosch and Tonie Miyamoto

FY26 Strategic Areas of Focus – Grace and Tonie (25 min)

- Over the summer and through the beginning of the fall semester, we have been meeting with campus leadership to help ensure that PSC's strategic plan is in alignment with stakeholder goals.
- We are narrowing down on four focus areas, which are still in draft form. These are:
 - STARS 3.0
 - Stakeholder Engagement & DEC Comms
 - Conceptual Review Process
 - Campus Master Plan
- Once these goals are established, the committee will be positioned to present our progress to ASCSU and other stakeholders.
- Regarding STARS 3.0: we are advancing CSU's sustainability goals, making progress, moving the needle, and closely aligning with STARS.

- o We have a question about the number of academic departments offering sustainability courses. Currently, 55 out of 56 departments provide such courses.
- o Aleta suggested that if we need a strategic plan to add more courses, “if there's just one department lacking a course, I think it would be appropriate to make a strategic investment into course development with our funds rather than inviting them to apply.”

PSC Budget Update – Grace and Tonie (5 min)

- For this fiscal year, we will need to implement a 7% reduction in the PSC budget.
- As part of this process, we will need to make some cuts, including:
 - o Professional development funding
 - o Assessment (combining two surveys into one)
 - o EV Grant will be reduced by \$10K
- Additionally, we should be prepared for potential future budget cuts and we will continue to discuss/brainstorm what that may look like.

Member updates – All (25 min)

- **Mary:** Move-in is next Tuesday and Wednesday. If you'd like to volunteer for cardboard corrals, the shifts are available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Amber will send out a sign-up sheet by the end of the day.
- **Jake:** CSU members can attend the SWANA fall conference for free, happening September 15–17, 2025. More information is available here: <https://www.coloradoswana.org/fall-conference>.
- **Rodolfo:** The FY26 Call for Proposals for SoGES is now open. Please share with faculty members: <https://smr.to/p104079>. Additional opportunities will also be available in the fall.