



PRESIDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Agenda
November 11, 1:00-2:30 pm

Teams

Introductions and Welcome – (Grace)

Grace opened the meeting and welcomed new members and guests:

- **Nate Vander Broek is filling in for Aaron Fodge-**
 - Works in Parking and Transportation Services. Works with CSU employees and encourages alternative transportation to work and review infrastructure work.
- **Sofia Hiller-** Deputy Director of Sustainability for ASCSU
- **Melissa Chavira-Nieto–** Braiden Eco Leader
- **Matthew Selje-** Athletics, replacing Mark Paquette

AASHE Updates – (Tonie and Carol):

National conference in Anaheim the last week of Oct. Carol, Stacey, and Tonie attended. Topics varied widely from academics to operations, research, DEI, and sustainability. Keynotes spoke about how racial justice can align with environmental justice. Many institutions are talking about how to make climate change a bigger priority in academics and ramp up efforts to meet climate commitments that are rapidly approaching. Lots of questions and conversations around leveraging partnership, grants, etc. Tonie encouraged PSC reps to attend this conference next year, if possible, due to the quality of the networking and programs. [Carnegie classifications](#) is launching a new sustainability classification in April 2025 and presented at the conference. Some of the sessions were recorded from this conference, so those will go out soon.

Support for ASCSU Resolution 5403 – (Tonie and Sofia)

Please see the resolution from ASCSU. This has unanimously passed so this bill is now official. Sofia shared that this resolution targets energy efficiency, which is one of the big-ticket items that is hard to tackle as students. Goal is to be LEED certified on campus for as many buildings as possible. The bill also addresses our District Energy Conversion Plan, specifically around our aging boilers, which are coming to the end of their life. The plan calls for replacing these with an electrified heating and chilling plant that is much more efficient and would reduce natural gas use by 40 percent. Sustainability, and CSU's focus on this work, is a huge reason why many students attend this university. Please review the Resolution and let Sofia know if you have questions (ascsu_sustainability@colostate.edu or ascsu_environmental_affairs@colostate.edu). In the meeting, PSC voted to endorse this resolution. Sofia is ensuring this has been sent to the President's Office. Once that confirmation is back, PSC will share our endorsement with the President's Office as well.

FY24 GHG Inventory – (Carol)

Carol shared a presentation (attached). For our FY24 GHG inventory, our GHG emissions are down about 20k metric tons, mostly due to a warmer winter. CSU's emissions are around 195k metric tons of GHG. Note: A metric ton is one thousand kilograms. Electricity is the major source of our footprint. The City of FoCo is our primary electric provider (around 80% of electricity) of all our campuses. 19% of CSU's electricity comes from Xcel Energy (includes Spur, Foothills, ARDEC, and a handful of our research stations). In the pie graph, the orange slice illustrates electricity. Big future expansion in renewable energy is coming, that can help in future years. Natural Gas is around 50k to 60k metric tons. Historically this doesn't move/change often.

In FY23, CSU began incorporating Fuel & Energy Related Activities (FERA) into its GHG Inventory, these are Scope3 emissions. This is consistent with updated GHG protocols and marks an enhancement in reporting. FERA accounts for the upstream effects of fuel and electricity usage, covering aspects like methane leakage, extraction, production, transportation, and transmission and distribution losses in the electric grid. The inclusion of FERA has added 11% to CSU's emissions profile, offering a more comprehensive view of environmental impact. This integration reflects the university's commitment to a deeper understanding and mitigation of its contribution to climate change. The pie chart shows that energy-related emissions are more than 3/4ths of our carbon footprint. Everything else is fairly small compared to these emissions. Based on our data, we need to really dig into energy efficiency and the District Energy Conversion project to hit our goals.

Emily asked: How is air travel determined?

Air Travel paid for by the University in any way shows up on a report from BFS. Carol shared that air travel is not determined by the distance you are traveling, but instead is tracked by dollars spent. Pre-COVID, CSU's air travel was about 20k metric tons, but during the height of Covid, that number went down to 800. Since COVID, that number is a little less than pre-covid times, around 17k. Airlines are also getting more efficient so that is playing into this number as well. We hope we don't return to pre-COVID levels and Grace shared that COB students are doing a project for PSC now to propose ways to incentive not flying.

On the commuting side: CSU sends out an annual commuting survey to around five thousands people at CSU to gather primary/secondary trip data and how people commute. Utilizing our Greenhouse Gas Accounting tool, we can enter numbers of each transportation type, etc. to get our figures.

District Energy Conversion Financing Working Group - (Carol)

Our steam system we rely on was built in the early 1900's that has been updated a little through the years. The original system ran off coal, hence why it is right by the railroad tracks. In the 1960's, we converted to natural gas boilers. Sixty years later, we are looking at the next generation. Our steam system provides heating and hot water for the vast majority of campus, so our goal is to try to convert 19th century steam system to a hot/cold system, via electricity and not natural gas. We have now reached a point where we have a solid District Energy Conversion Plan that will significantly reduce natural gas use and save millions in utility costs. What we need now is a viable financing model. PSC voted in favor of creating a financing working group that can pull from subject matter experts across the university. Anticipate monthly meetings with the end result being a memo to the President and CFO illustrating options for financing. Brendan Hanlon, VPUO, has offered to charge this working group. Currently, our work group volunteers are Grace, Mark, Tanner, and Emily. If other folks are interested in joining, please let Grace (grace.wright@colostate.edu) know.

Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee Seeking New Chair – (Grace)

Formed May 2017 with the goal to progress pollinator friendly initiatives on campus. CSU has been Bee Campus USA Certified since Jan. 2018. This is a designation that recognizes our sustainability research in Pollinator habitat, education, engagement. This group meets a few times a year with representatives from across campus from faculty, staff, and students. The Chair, David Hanson, is leaving CSU so if there is a need to fill this role that would be wonderful. If you or someone you know who may be interested, please let Grace (grace.wright@colostate.edu) know. More info here: <https://www.fm.colostate.edu/pollinators/>.

Big THANK YOU and RECOGNITION to David, who has been a sustainability champion at CSU for many years and has put a lot of effort and expertise into the Pollinator Friendly Campus Committee, the arboretum, and the STARS landscaping credits. You will be missed David!

Member Updates

- **Active/Sunset Working Groups (Tonie)**
 - Environmentally and Socially Conscious purchasing- sunset as new policy has been approved
 - Green Building Standards- sunset
 - Green Cleaning- sunset as new policy has been approved
 - STARS- active and will be kicking off the next STARS report in January; shoutout to Linsey and Emily, who are new members!
 - E-Waste Management: recommendation has been made andm, if approved, group can sunset
 - Sustainable Fleet – active and currently working on a new/updated policy around our fleet.
- **Glover Building Replacement Update (Mark Ritschard)**
 - Deconstruction is part of the program plan and the goal is 85% diversion away from the landfill.
- **EV GRANT for this Fiscal Year is OPEN! (Tonie)**
 - If you are interested in retiring a gas-powered vehicle, departments can get cash.
 - If you are interested in purchasing an EV vehicle, there are incentives to help with costs
 - More info at <https://green.colostate.edu/csu-sustainability-fund/#tab2>
- **Ride and Drive Event (Nate Vander Broek)**
 - More to come, but the event will be in June and we are looking at lots of vehicles to bring to CSU.
- **MBA programs ranked number 1 worldwide for sustainable business education**
 - The Colorado State University College of Business MBA programs rank No. 1 in the world for sustainability among large programs, No. 3 in North America and No. 4 globally by *Corporate Knights*. [Source article here.](#)
- **Shoutout to Eco Leaders for their Eco Actions Campaign (Tonie)**
 - This fall, the Eco Leaders engaged over 1000 students in their sustainable actions campaign. This is the first year they are back to those numbers since the pandemic!
- **Update on Transportation Challenge in COB (Grace and Nate)**
 - <https://biz.source.colostate.edu/college-of-business-alternative-transport-initiative-replaces-3700-commuter-miles/>