



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

Agenda

October 10th, 1:00-2:30 pm

**Virtual Meeting**

- In attendance today: Tonie Miyamoto, Carol Dollard, Grace Wright, Alicia Armentrout, Stacey Baumgarn, Tim Brennan, Sara Campbell, Jake Drenth, Brian Dunbar, Aaron Fodge, Mark Gokavi, Kenneth Kineer, Monica Latham, Andrew Warnock, Jocelyn Hittle, Farrah Bustamante, Mark Ritschard, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Jennifer Williams, Joe von Fischer, Aleta Weller, Greg Lewis, Kirstie Tedrick.
  - Welcome Dr. Albert Bimper Jr. Interim Chief of Staff in the President's Office. Albert has been with CSU as an Associate Professor in the College of Liberal Arts in the Ethnic Studies and Sports Management departments. He also serves as Senior Associate Athletics Director. Albert has a permaculture farm at home and raises bees.
- Sustainability Curriculum Survey Wrap-Up
  - Tonie Miyamoto: The Sustainability Curriculum survey with IRIS reached many instructors this summer, which we were pleased about. After looking through the responses for our STARS report, we found there were over 500 courses for undergraduates and 300 for graduates that met the criteria. There were some responses which did not have quite enough information to count in this report, but we will be looking to follow up with those instructors. We were able to include at least one course from all academic departments, which is a huge success. The data was also used to look at students who graduate with courses or degrees with learning outcomes relating to sustainability. Over 65% of CSU students graduate having taken at least one sustainability-focused course and/or graduate from an academic program focused on sustainability. Eventually, we would love to see this get to 100% but 65% is a great place to start. Thank you to everyone for your support getting this out over the summer, especially to Interim President Rick Miranda, Interim Provost Jan Nerger, Tony Rappe, and members of our Academic Subcommittee. We drew a winner for the e-bike for participation in the survey and the lucky winner was Alex Hulpke.
- Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grants
  - Aleta Weller: The Curriculum Innovation Grants are a partnership between PSC and SoGES, with PSC funding and SoGES putting out the RFP. These grants are a great way to see where there are different interests in integrating sustainability curriculum across the University. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year we have run the grant with an RFP process. The application is now closed, and we are getting started on reviewing the 20 proposals submitted. The grants also generate the breadth vs depth debate, for example faculty may look to include sustainability in AUCC courses that reach large numbers of students or smaller courses that have extensive depth. It generated a lot of interest around campus and demonstrates that faculty are hungry to integrate sustainability in their coursework. Even faculty not typically engaged in sustainability work have expressed interest. We would like to release the RFP earlier this year, pending budget approval.
- CSU Sustainability Fund
  - Mary Liang: We are looking to get students more involved with proposals for engagement work. Our application is open until the end of the month, please help us spread the word. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to submit proposals between \$200 and \$10,000. Total funding available this year is \$25K.

- <https://green.colostate.edu/csu-sustainability-fund/>
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory Update
  - Carol Dollard: The GHG inventory is completed for FY22; we have completed annual GHG footprints since FY06. This year there is nothing too out of the ordinary and we are still on a downward trend, with the footprint coming to 179,400 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. Energy continues to be the largest component, with electricity and natural gas being our largest footprint areas. As our whole footprint shrinks, some areas that are smaller but unmoving, like agriculture or fleet, become larger proportionally. The GHG Footprint is measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. Over 75% of our footprint is energy. Electricity is below 50% for the first time, as the grid is getting greener with utility companies all working towards 2030 and 2040 renewable electricity goals. Air travel jumped back up from COVID but is still below pre-COVID levels. Commuting largely increased from during COVID levels, especially for students. SOVs in the student category increased 10% which may be a COVID related phenomenon as people are more comfortable travelling in single-passenger vehicles. Natural gas has been persistent between 50,000 and 60,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, not moving much in either direction since we started tracking in FY06. One way we can look at this data is by calculating per square foot. Measuring in GSF, we have added lots of square footage, so the overall downward trend and stability in natural gas is still good. We also break it into scopes. Scope 1 is directly owned/emitted sources. Natural gas broken into heat plant and other, the campus plant is nearly half of natural gas. Scope 1 has hardly moved since we started tracking. Scope 2 is purchased electricity, which has come down significantly from FY10 but still has a ways to go. Scope 3 is all other indirect emissions related to university operations, such as commuting, air travel, and solid waste. Solid waste is a small portion of the total footprint but a very visible one.
    - Joe von Fischer: It would be interesting to look into monitoring for methane leakages to be above and beyond STARS criteria, as well as looking at improving local air quality.
  - Carol Dollard: The main way individuals can impact GHG footprint is to be aware and practice electricity efficiency in your workspaces, as electricity is our largest contributor. Simple things like turning lights off when not in use, making sure windows and doors are shut when not in use, avoiding space heaters, or consolidating personal mini fridges into larger community fridges can make a difference for our electricity and natural gas consumption.
    - Stacey Baumgarn: We all get to be the ambassadors of the behavior we see. Looking around on campus, individuals can help by being mindful.
    - Carol Dollard: Scientific equipment really contributes to electricity usage – fume hoods and freezers can use as much energy as a home. Stacey runs the Green Labs program which can help labs learn how to cut down on their usage and implement sustainability into their practices.
    - <https://www.research.colostate.edu/research-safety-culture/green-labs/>
    - Tonie Miyamoto: We also have a tendency on campus to hang onto equipment even when it is not being utilized, so unplugging or surplus-ing under-utilized equipment and appliances is another way to cut down on energy usage.
- Solar Celebration Event October 11
  - Carol Dollard: Governor Polis will be coming to the celebration tomorrow at the Pavilion from 1-3 p.m. This project added 20 new arrays, putting total solar energy for campus at 11.2 MW. There are 17 building arrays and 3 ground mounts. One of the ground mounts at ARDEC will double at a sheep pasture to experiment in the agrivoltaics area to minimize land use impacts of solar.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: This project is a testament to our Green Building standards; the buildings were built with the intention of adding solar arrays in the future.
  - <https://source.colostate.edu/solar-installations-renewable-energy/>
- Proposal for PSC Fleet Working Group
  - Aaron Fodge: We want to address the reality that fleet is one of our poorest performing areas in the STARS report. There is a need for a working group to address the issues within our fleet, such as the fleet makeup, requirements for the sale of a vehicle, policies for new purchases, and when older vehicles are no longer financially viable to keep. We have vehicles all over the state, country, and world necessary for supporting research but plenty that are sitting unused. We would like to develop a charge to address the

fleet, an example being ASU's purchasing policy relating to fleet that emphasizes minimal impact on the environment: <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/pur/pur211.html>

- Aaron Fodge: Currently we have no policy and purchasing decisions are left to the department. Another area to investigate for this group is requirements for the sale of a vehicle to ensure there is a cutoff point when the cost of maintenance is greater than the value of the vehicle. This could be related to age or mileage for example.
  - Joe von Fischer: Generating awareness around campus about the fleet issue so that departments are more realistic about what their vehicle needs are would be beneficial to this issue. One possibility could be a contest between departments to encourage movement towards departmental standards on a more sustainable fleet.
- Aaron Fodge: With this working group, it would be great to see representation and a variety of perspectives for the different departments on campus to provide input on their vehicle needs and where there may be hesitation for new fleet policies. Also, we would look for input on the implementation of any changes and to spread the word to departments about the fleet issue. Based on current procedures and what other schools have done to make fleet improvements, this effort would likely require a policy to reach our goals.
- Carol Dollard: Fleet is not a major portion of the GHG inventory, but it is a very visible portion of it. Benefits to optics and local air quality are the main drivers to improving our fleet. Especially here on the Front Range, improving air quality by making our fleet more sustainable is a main reason to look into this and work towards improvements.
- Aaron Fodge: It has come down from the state that fleet/vehicles are the major mobile emissions source. Northern Colorado air quality recently went into the severe zone, meaning even just going out to exercise on a bad air quality day could be harmful to health. The City of Fort Collins also has a goal that 50% of vehicles on the road are electric to work towards their climate goals. Making improvements towards our fleet not only helps our goals but also contributes to city and state efforts to improve air quality and meet climate goals. The commitment for this group is to write a charge to bring back to PSC for review and approval.
- Tonie Miyamoto: With the thematic year of health, this could be a good time to prioritize this effort. When Carol and I met with Rick Miranda, he expressed support for fleet improvements. As a reminder, anyone can be a part of the working group, including those outside of the PSC. Please let Aaron know if you or your area has a representative interested in serving. We will plan to bring a charge to next month's meeting for a vote.
  - Several members expressed support for developing the working group.
- Member Updates
  - Aleta Weller: CSU has an official delegation attending the UN Climate Change Conference as part of our observer status, so we will be sending a group to Egypt this November. We will be sharing updates about the conference as they come in. Last spring, SoGES hosted a climate leadership summit with PSD high school students during Earth Month, we will be doing this again next year in April. The experience was great to work with local high school students and CSU. Last year we had to cap registrations at 200, this year we have space for 400 and it will be at a more convenient time for students.
  - Carol & Tonie: The AASHE Global Conference is coming up, and as a host institution we have 100 registrations available at no cost to students and employees. The format is three Wednesdays in October & November, with all sessions offered in a virtual format. If you have not registered already, do so soon, there are only a few spots remaining. You can register until the end of December to have access to recorded sessions but register prior to then for access to live sessions.
    - Tonie Miyamoto will be on a panel with Jenelle Beavers and Courtney Schultz on the CST and sustainability implementation in strategic planning. Carol Dollard will be presenting on a panel discussing the DOE Better Buildings Challenge.
    - Find conference information and registration instructions here: <https://source.colostate.edu/global-conference-on-sustainability-in-higher-education-no-cost-to-csu-employees-students/>

- Mark Ritschard: I wanted to shout out some of the student efforts recently. At this past weekend's football game, there was a student-organized sustainability tailgate.
  - Tonie Miyamoto: The theme of the Homecoming Game is sustainability, there will be tabling opportunities. Shoutout to the Zero Waste Team for all their work with sorting at the games, they will be getting a Source story this week.
- Tonie: As a reminder, the PSC agenda is open, please feel free to send any items you want to present to the group. We have officially moved our meetings to the second Monday of the month to avoid conflicts with University holidays. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the STARS report, we are hoping to have it submitted by the next meeting.