



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

Meeting Minutes
June 16, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Teams

- Welcome and Introductions – All
 - Welcome back Carol!
 - New representatives often join in August/September so please let Grace and Tonie know if your area will have a new rep.
- Sustainability Culture and Literacy Assessment Survey Results – Mary and Tonie
 - Very successful survey of students and employees in partnership with IRISS.
 - An infographic of highlights was shared and contact Mary if you'd like the full survey results.
 - Notable findings include that 97% of CSU students say sustainability is important to them, and 55% reported CSU's sustainability reputation was a key factor in choosing to attend. Students demonstrated strong engagement, with 77% learning about sustainability in the classroom and 68% participating in related campus activities. Sustainability literacy was also high—90% of students correctly defined environmental justice, and 70% understood carbon footprints.
 - Top campus sustainability priorities identified by the community include:
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Education & Research
 - Renewable Energy
 - TransportationThese priorities align well with CSU's existing strengths and signal opportunities for deeper investment and communication going forward.
 - On the employee side, 75% reported an increased understanding of sustainability since working at CSU, and 71% believe CSU should devote more resources to sustainability projects and initiatives.

- PSC District Energy Conversion Finance Work Group assessment and next steps – Grace
 - The CSU District Energy Conversion (DEC) Work Group was charged with researching and recommending financing options for the replacement of CSU’s aging district energy infrastructure, which is approaching end-of-life by 2030. Between February and May 2025, the work group conducted extensive research, including interviews with peer institutions, analysis of financing structures (such as state funding, UFFAB allocations, and Public-Private Partnerships), and a modeling of costs under various scenarios.
 - Final financing recommendations from the work group have been presented to Brendan Hanlan, VPUO, and Matt Tillman, Chief of Staff and the PSC liaison to President’s Office.
 - The DEC Finance Work Group recommends CSU invest in a Combined Heating and Cooling (CHC) system to replace its aging energy infrastructure, citing strong lifecycle cost savings, emissions reductions, and risk mitigation. While GeoExchange + CHC offers the greatest environmental benefits, CHC alone achieves cost parity within about six years and aligns with CSU’s Climate Action Plan. The group’s top financing recommendation is to pursue state funding, supported by targeted advocacy, with UFFAB funds used to fill gaps. Alternative strategies such as P3s, green bonds, and philanthropic support were also explored
 - This is THE project to advance our Climate Action Plan goals, make our campus more energy efficient, and ensure long-term resilience of our campus heating and cooling systems.
 - Advocating for this project and securing funding will be a top priority for PSC this fall.
 - Next steps: Brendan has asked the group to assess re-phasing the project timeline to build out the greatest cost-saving portions first, then to potentially hit high-student impact parts of campus next. He wants a detailed capital cost per stage, assuming we are borrowing the money. For each phase, he would like to also propose capital stacks that include bonds, the state, UFFAB, and utility cost savings from prior stages. Gene, Mike, Stacey, Tanner, and Tracey Abel (Project Manager in Capital Construction) are working on this over the summer.
 - The group discussed launching a work group to work on communications around the DEC (campus activation) and Grace asked to table voting on this workgroup until the next meeting.

- STARS Input Needed – All
 - Seeking an academic course that includes sustainability in the following departments (can be a lecture, reading, assignment, guest speaker, tour, etc.):
 - Physics
 - Biochem and Molecular Biology
 - If you have a lead or instructor contact please email Debbie.Meisinger@colostate.edu
 - There was support to prioritize departments without a course in this year's Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grants
 - Youth Environmental Alliance in Higher Education (YEAH) Network is included in the sustainability networks credit, is it still active? Grace sent Debbie the web link and contact to follow up.
- Air Travel Offset Project – Stacey
 - With the Johnson Hall project completed, we are ready to use available funds for the next project.
 - Stacey has identified an LED lighting project for Natural and Environment Science Building as the next project. The lights in the hallways are on 24/7 so there is cost savings and a rebate available. This building houses several sustainability departments/units so it's a high-profile candidate, and a project to make some of the spaces more sustainable has been approved as a facility fee so this project pairs nicely with that.
 - There was support to proceed and interest in highlighting these projects in SOURCE. Stacey will provide updates as the project gets going.
- Member updates – All
 - Aaron shared that there are three upcoming community rides everyone is welcome to participate in: Community Ride June 17 on campus, Juneteenth Family Bike Ride June 21 at Washington Park, and Bike to Work Day on June 25 with a station hosted on the CSU Oval.
 - Aaron also shared an update about West Elizabeth Roundabout.
 - Cate shared that the reused graduation gown program was successful and will be continuing. She will be continuing in her role as Environmental Affairs Director for ASCSU in the fall semester.
 - Carol and Stacey shared the application for the [Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado](#) program. Applications are opened and Carol shared she learned so much about Colorado water.

- o Tonie shared that Amber Sanchez will be the incoming admin support for PSC as she begins her new role as Executive Assistant in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office on July 1. Amber will begin managing the calendar, listserv, and membership list for PSC in July.