



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

Agenda
October 13, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Teams

Member Attendance: Tonie Miyamoto, Carol Dollard, Fred Habercht, Grace Wright, Jamie Pace, Tami Bond, Liril Sananes, Julia Innes, Kristin Olofsson, Matt Schild, Mike Singleton, Lynsey Bosch, Aaron Fodge, Greg Lewis, Annabelle Berklund (guest), Sarah Badding, Rodolfo Valdes Vasquez, Dimagi Kottage, and Amber Sanchez

Welcome and Introductions – All (5 min)

City of Fort Collins Utilities Programs – Annabelle Burkland (5 min)

- Annabelle Berklund presented on Fort Collins Utilities Public Engagement Opportunities for CSU. Reach out to Annabelle if you have ideas or you'd like her to come in and educate staff or students. Aberklund@fcgov.com
 - Presentation: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:a42ea2ff-a422-4920-a9fe-7c88316fdbb4>
 - Resources:
 - The City of Fort Collins Utilities community outreach opportunities: <https://www.fcgov.com/utilities/community-outreach>. Please note, it's not an exhaustive list—I'm happy to tailor classes and programs to your specific needs.
 - Art of Utilities walk on 10/22 here: <https://engage.fcgov.com/Calendar>.

Arboretum Updates – Fred Haberecht (15 min)

- Colorado State University has a long tradition of stewarding its historic and ecologically valuable trees. CSU is recognized as an ArbNet Level III Arboretum nationally, which was established to preserve and promote a diverse and resilient tree canopy across campus. Certification requires the tracking of all campus trees

([see tracking here](#)), including efforts to maintain iconic areas such as the Oval—home to 100-year-old trees valued at approximately \$40,000 each—and unique specimens like the over 100-year-old Octopus Tree near the Warner College of Natural Resources. More information can be found at [CSU Facilities Management: Arboretum | Colorado State University](#).

- Despite these efforts, there is currently no formal review process for tree removal on campus. Since 2002, the City of Fort Collins has documented that CSU has lost approximately 10% of its tree canopy—an unusually high rate compared to the rest of the city. In some cases, trees must be removed due to development or disease, yet without a structured policy, decisions about removal and replacement can lack transparency and consistency.

Proposal to the PSC Committee:

- A Heritage Tree Program would establish clear criteria and procedures for identifying, protecting, and, when necessary, replacing significant trees on campus. Such a program would formalize the preservation of trees with exceptional historical, ecological, or aesthetic value and require that any proposed removal or replacement undergo review and formal appraisal by the President’s Sustainability Committee (PSC) or a designated subcommittee.
- Beyond conservation, this program would reinforce the university’s commitment to sustainability and community well-being by highlighting the ecological, social, and physical health benefits of mature trees. Similar programs at peer institutions and municipalities have proven effective in maintaining canopy coverage and celebrating trees as living landmarks that connect people to place.

Next Steps:

- PSC voted to charge the Arboretum Committee with investigating a CSU Heritage Tree Program. There was no opposition.
- The Arboretum Committee will bring a draft proposal for PSC and stakeholders on campus to review.
- For questions or concerns, please contact Fred Haberecht.

Fun Fact: PSC planted a tree on the oval during Earth Month in 2020 to recognize President Tony Frank (now Chancellor Frank) for his commitment to sustainability, including the establishment of PSC.

Project Sustainability Criteria- Grace Wright (10 min)

A new "Project Initiation Process" has been implemented to promote openness and transparency in reviewing project requirements. More information can be found here: <https://www.fm.colostate.edu/projects-space/> and [Project Sustainability Criteria - Green @ CSU](#).

This broader process includes a scoring system based on six key requirements:

- President's Priorities
- Sustainability
- Recapitalization
- Collaboration
- Space Need
- Financial Return

The group discussed the integration of sustainability scoring into CSU's Project Initiation Process. This process serves as a critical mechanism for advancing CSU's climate and sustainability commitments—specifically, achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2040. Criteria align with CSU's climate action, land use, infrastructure, and academic priorities, and reinforce the university's reputation as a global leader in sustainability.

PSC recognized Mike Singleton for including sustainability in this process and engaging PSC to help develop the sustainability criteria.

Scoring Approach:

Projects are reviewed across multiple sustainability dimensions, with points awarded for advancing one or more criteria. The resulting rubric score reflects the project's overall sustainability contribution.

Key Criteria Areas:

1. Land, Space & Resource Efficiency – Encourages right-sizing, adaptive reuse, biodiversity protection, and reduced embodied carbon.
2. Energy & Carbon Transformation – Promotes electrification, renewable energy integration, and alignment with the District Energy Conversion project.
3. Mobility & Access – Prioritizes low-carbon transportation, connectivity, and reduced parking demand.
4. Resilience & Risk Management – Strengthens climate adaptation and system-wide resilience to hazards such as heat, flooding, or power disruption.

5. Academic & Community Value – Supports teaching, research, and engagement opportunities that extend CSU’s sustainability leadership locally and beyond.

Starting next year, there will be updates to the form and project flow based on scoring outcomes. A more detailed form will be used for capital projects, delving into specifics such as project need, financial payback, and other critical details.

STARS Updates – Tonie (10 min)

- We’re getting close! The goal is to have the last four credits inputted into the reporting tool by Friday, October 17 so the third-party reviewer can complete their review. We hope to submit to AASHE in early November for their review (which typically takes 6 to 8 weeks).
 - We are going for our fifth Platinum rating!
 - Kudos to the STARS team: Debbie Meisinger (MBA fellow), Stacey Baumgarm, Mary Liang, Lynsey Bosch, Carol Dollard, April Shelton, Emily Schmeiding, Sarah Badding, and Tonie.

Member Updates – All

- Mary Liang
 - Two more weeks to submit for the CSU Sustainability Grant - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/gracehwright_the-presidents-sustainability-commission-activity-7379866584162643968-Q55G?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAUoLeoBWKi4VUH2jnAGv2YRmS9SwG3htRc
 - EV Grant- <https://source.colostate.edu/csusustainabilityfund-evgrant-to-award-up-to-100000-to-students-staff-faculty-departments/>
- Carol Dollard
 - Greenhouse gas footprint has had third-party review, will share details next month but good news is that we are down a bit from last year.
 - VET Teaching Hospital has reduced water use significantly, from over 1,600 gallons to below 400 gallons per hour (saving millions of gallons of water)! Kudos to Stacey for his work on this project.
- Cate Collins
 - Graduation gown lending library [ASCSU Grad Gown Library.pdf](#)
- Grace Wright

- Amy Lukken, Chief Joyologist for Tito's Vodka is speaking on October 20 and there are 20 seats left if you'd like to join: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/amy-lukken-joyologist-how-love-and-joy-are-transforming-work-and-business-tickets-1731107572349?aff=oddtcreator>
- Zero Waste Team
 - Diverted over 1,600 pounds of compost at the home football game Friday night.
 - Diverted over 95% of material at Fall Address on Wednesday.
- Eco Leaders
 - Second to last week of Zero Waste campaign; goal is to engage with 20% of on-campus students. Over 1,000 students have been engaged so far.
 - Working on sustainable ways to engage with students during Halloween festivities. This includes reusable costumes, sustainable candy, and how to compost pumpkins.
- Colorado Green Business Network recognition event
 - Stacey Baumgam shared a pic of Grace and him accepting the Gold certificate for CSU at the Denver Zoo event - [CGBN_2025-01804.jpg](#)

Next Meeting: November 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. via TEAMS