

MINUTES

Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC)

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:00 – 5:30 pm

TEAMS virtual meeting

2020-2021 VISION: Deepen community connections

Present: Jon Bromley, Sarah Larson-Dennen, Jana Petrikova, Laura Slama, Mary Ellen Webb, John Carroll, Kendall Gray, Sue Caswell, Shelley Mitchell, Jim Rozycki, Julie Kelley, Doris Demers, Cristina Dolcino, Maggie Morrison, Sarah O'Brien

Meeting began: 4:04 pm

Welcome remarks from Maggie. Cristina Dolcino agreed to be notetaker; Maggie will transcribe into minutes.

October 2020 minutes: Mary Ellen made a motion for approval of minutes as written; John Carroll seconded. Approved

Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report:

Maggie shared the impact of COVID on last summer's plans to hire sustainability fellow from UNH. The intern was to focus efforts on entering data into UNH's online carbon and nitrogen accounting platform – SIMAP (Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform) With Sue Caswell's support, Sabrina Lichenwalner, District employee in accounts payable department was trained in SIMAP and entered data. Kendall Gray was retained as a paid intern to analyze the data and develop a report document.

Kendall's presentation of data and recommendations:

Figure 1: Some data was not collected and so there are gaps

From 2014-2020 – decrease over time of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

Figure 2: Illustration of stationary/transportation fuels and amount of energy used depending upon weather - Fuel and transmissions do NOT line up with weather fluctuations (e.g., when it got colder... fuel consumption increased).

Figure 3: 2019 and 2020 are the years with the most complete data.

53% is transportation of staff and students. Greater than all other emissions

High School consumes the most energy and is most populated

7% consists of solid waste

Figure 4: Service building is emitting a lot of energy. Comments were made about why there is such a huge amount of emissions coming from service building.

Jim R. - there may be reasons why it is so high - (water used on fields, originally a modular building). Sue thinks maybe some bills are being directed to that building but are not be “used” at that building

Overall comments:

- Some areas are not as robust for data, but the data does show growth and where focus can be placed in the future.
- Data shows where it is best to put our resources
- Solid waste and transportation should be considered to help decrease overall emissions
- Recommended to look at student/staff transportation and solid waste as a focus for change in the future.

Transportation numbers DO NOT include student data.

Work will be needed to make a shift to change our transportation numbers (e.g., charging stations, carpooling).

Jon B- Wondering what the shift into our new “normal” post COVID may look like and effect emissions

Solid waste data is only 2019

Food waste also includes upstream emissions (the “making” of the food) and this doesn’t include the food brought from home by teachers/students

John C- by not including the student body represents that this data is incomplete. We may not know how the future will look like with student attending school in buildings.

Kendall suggests collecting student data through the parking lot permit application process

Look more closely on the emissions of this year vs. a “more normal year”

Jana- The collection of transportation is difficult to accurately complete. These documents are evolving and continue collecting each year with the goal of making more accurately collected data as the years go down

A presentation to School Board will take place by Kendall when there is an opening in the School Board agenda. Eventually the report will be posted to the District Sustainability page within the School Board. Transparency of data will be there for all to see

Shelley- Sabrina entering information and Kendall’s work should be commended. The interpretation of this data will drive our future decisions. It would be good to look at how we can offset or emissions in alternative ways

Updates from the Fall:

High School Compost Plan – Laura Slama

Laura Slama- Last year she was the student representative to the committee; this year she is also a member of the HS Sustainability Club.

27 students (across the grades) – create the monthly sustainability newsletter, pushing out information through social media, and renewing current composting system at HS with the hope it will be an implemented system in future years. Possible compost models: designated bins in different locations, sealed compost bin in each classroom.

Jon B- the uniqueness of the remote learning has allowed the Sustainability Club to really be expanded. Waste audit could not be completed so data is incomplete but the data that we do have has helped continue the work for this year. We didn't have to hit the "reset" button again this year.

Maggie- energy of students is wonderful, they are effectively using social media and ORTV to educate and inform the ORHS community

Sustainability Newsletter- getting it out to different social media platforms. Kudos for the newsletter

Jon- placement of OR website and the placement of work completed by students... one-stop spot of where to go to find student work. It was suggested that Jon work with Josh Olstead and Celeste Best as well as others to move this forward.

Compost Collaboration

Nell Neal was unable to make it to the meeting. Maggie gave an update. We are moving ahead to become a working group consisting of UNH, representatives from Lee, Durham and ORCSD to continue examine the feasibility of a regional approach to composting. Each entity is too small but if we were bigger, we would have more options. The group met with Mike Nork from NH Department of Environmental Services. Although Mike was a great resource it's not clear whether DES has the staff resources to support this kind of initiative.

Julie- within Durham's IWMAC (Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee) there is a lot of talk about composting. Sally Needell, Council representative in IWMAC, gave a presentation to the HS Sustainability Club on Town's interest and efforts to divert food waste from the landfill.

Sustainability Fellow: Maggie reported that we have been accepted to host a UNH Sustainability Fellow for Summer 2021. The goal for this summer's Fellow is to create a 5-year Sustainability Management Plan for OR. Financial support for this internship will come from the Sustainability budget line. Maggie will serve as the supervisor. Kendall's GHG report will be used as the foundation for developing a roadmap that will include recommendations for curriculum and reductions strategies for GHG.

New Business:

Sara O'Brien- 5th Grade Middle School teacher; We have been asked to dispose of some supplies as move happens to new Middle School. Timeline is February 2022 to move into new building.

Fear is that a lot will be just thrown out. Want to be sure a new “home” is found for materials. A small group of students could help find where materials could go break.

Jon Carroll agreed to contact Alex Freid OR alum and founder of PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network) and co-founder of UNH’s Trash 2 Treasure to see if he has expertise that he could lend to this initiative

Sarah L-D - remember to consider keeping tax dollars of school supplies should be kept with the District if possible/feasible

Jim R – first focus on recyclables (e.g. paper) for this February vacation clean-out

Mary Ellen Webb would like to have on the agenda for our next meeting time to focus on where are we (SAC) going next year? What is the plan for teacher leaders and the future of Maggie’s position?

Next Meeting: April date TBD

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn from Maggie Morrison; Mary Ellen seconded.

Meeting ended 5:29 pm