



Student Government Association

Environmental Affairs Committee

November 2, 2011

SGA Conference Suite

5:45 P.M.

- I. Call To Order at 5:55 pm
- II. Members Present
 - a. Jeff Cook, Brittany Polze, Trevor Fuller, Tasha Dykstra.
 - b. Excused Absence- Kim Dawson
 - c. Unexcused Absence – Darren Adkins
- III. Environmental Affairs Chair Report – Jeff Cook
- IV. Environmental Sustainability Initiatives
 - a. Canvas Bags
 - PEAC, Campus Sustainability Committee, Aviands, and Bookstore are coordinating a plastic bag phase out plan
 - Aviands will be the first phase, they will be giving away 2,000 bags initially followed by charging for the final 1,000
 - Produced an SGA resolution with unanimous support from the committee in support of the phase out plan. We will post this for Senate Approval Monday Nov, 7th 2011.
 - b. Garden Space
 - Still looking for space, area in campus housing appears to be best fit
 - Still need to discuss with Paul Pinkston and Housing
- V. Sustainability Fund Research
 - a. Meeting on 11/3/11 to discuss doing a site assessment on campus near the union to determine feasibility of solar energy as an electricity source.
 - Solar
 1. We could produce a system within the current budget

2. Discussed our own research in regards to solar efficiency, a 4kWh system producing 5,333 kWh/yr could reduce our total CO₂ emissions from electricity by .03%
 3. We would like to know what amount of that goes towards the union, to adjust that percentage in regards to energy use at that facility
 4. Payback at current best case scenario could be 47yrs
 5. Still have potential for donated panels
- Wind
 1. Wind assessment completed on campus
 2. We would need a wind facility at a height of at least 140, but no larger than 160ft. These could cost anywhere from 64,000-125,000\$. The higher end could be attached with a 25% rebate.
 3. This wind facility could produce 55,000-95,000 kWh/yr
 4. Some concerns on whether these achieve their proposed efficiency levels
 5. Clearly, higher impacts, but much more expensive
 - Geothermal
 1. Retrofitting is too cost prohibitive
 - Solar heating
 1. Study done by solar company suggesting that Downham Hall could apply a solar heating operation which cost 32,000\$ with a potential pay back of 10yrs, with 8% increases in Natural Gas costs. Natural Gas, is cheap right now, we might need to revisit these costs and the methodology.
 2. At this point 32,000 is too cost prohibitive
 - a. Natural Gas is also cleaner burning than coal.

VI. Preliminary Vote on which project to pursue

- a. Passed unanimously that we should pursue the solar electricity project pending the site assessment analysis and/or the development of new projects or research

VII. Adjournment at 6:55pm