

Sustainability Council Meeting Report 3.14.19

The Council for the Sustainability of Campus Operations was established in 2017 to help meet the demands of the Second Nature Climate Commitment. It is in charge of ensuring that Tufts reach carbon neutrality and advising the Tufts community on ways to conserve energy and reduce fossil fuel usage. Starting this year, Tufts undergraduates can apply to be a student representative on the council. This will help the council get feedback from students and allow students to be more aware of what the council does. The student representative will write a report summarizing what was covered in the Sustainability Council meetings and make that available to all students. The following is a report from the Sustainability Council meeting on March 14th, 2019.

Sustainability Across the Curriculum

At the previous meeting during the Fall semester, Dean Glaser suggested that the committee look into ways to better involve the academic community in the carbon neutrality planning process. As a follow-up to that suggestion, during this meeting Dean Glaser and Donna Qualters, outgoing CELT Director and Associate Professor at the Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, spoke about dedicating the next UniversityWide Teaching Conference in 2020 to sustainability. Qualters also suggested that Tufts launch a year long initiative related to enhancing sustainability in the classroom, both in classroom operations and in the actual class content. Ideas that came up included giving Tufts professors a sustainability rating that students can see on SIS and linking the sustainable aspects of the new Cummings building to the conference. More information on past conferences [here](#).

Update from Operations

The meeting then turned to an operations update. There have recently been campus-wide meetings regarding the carbon neutrality plan, and there were engagement events to get student input on 11/2/18, 1/25/19, and, lastly, 3/29/19. Details on these engagement events can be found [here](#). Tufts is working with Ramboll, a sustainability consulting company, to analyze our energy

consumption, evaluate a plan for becoming carbon neutral, and decide where to use hot water in pipes for heating. Additionally, there are proposals for adding solar arrays to CoHo, while Lewis Hall and the SEC had panels installed recently. There are solar arrays already on SoGo (2006), Dowling Hall (2014) and on the Grafton campus (2017). More information on Tufts solar can be found [here](#).

Resiliency Assessment

Tina Woolston, the Director of the Office of Sustainability, gave a presentation expressing the need for Tufts to develop long term strategies for addressing climate change and to develop metrics to measure its progress. The possible hazards or risks that may arise due to climate change include a projected rise in the number of days over 90 degrees and days over 100 degrees in the coming decades, as well as anticipated increases in precipitation. She went through the suggested metrics that Tufts can use to analyze the university's resilience to such environmental impacts (list of metrics attached).

Green Fund

Woolston also gave an update on the Green Fund, a program created to provide funding for the implementation of sustainability projects and ideas at Tufts. More information about the Green Fund can be found [here](#). The following projects received funding this year:

- Tufts Food Security Assessment, submitted by Madeleine Clarke and Marissa Donohue, awarded \$4,100
- Edible Insect Festival (April 17-18, 2019), submitted by Sara Lewis, awarded \$5,500
- Glove Recycling, submitted by Breanna Duffy, awarded \$2,600
- SMFA Health, Safety, and Sustainability Day (April 18, 2019), submitted by Ethan Murrow, awarded \$6,750
- Tufts Pollinator Initiative, submitted by Nick Dorian, awarded \$11,050

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Update

Barbara Stein, the Vice President for Operations, gave an update on on-campus charging stations for electric vehicles. Operations is working with an electrician to evaluate locations for electric vehicle charging stations in the Cousens lot and Aidekman lot, as well as station expansion in Dowling Garage. They have also submitted an application to Tesla about a funding program the company is currently running and should receive a response from Tesla by May 1.

Lastly, the [Campus Sustainability Progress Report](#) for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 is now available on the Office of Sustainability website.

Written by Rebeca Becdach A'21 on April 8th, 2019.



Council for Sustainability of Campus Operations

**Thursday, March 14, 2019
3:00 – 5:00 PM**

Coolidge Room, MEDFORD CAMPUS

Welcome	Ann Rappaport
Introduction of Rebeca Becdach Student Representative	Patricia Campbell
Sustainability Across the Curriculum	Ann Rappaport/Roundtable
Carbon Neutrality Planning	Ruth Bennett
Update from Operations	Ruth Bennett and Barbara Stein
Green Fund	Tina Woolston
Sustainability Progress Report	Tina Woolston
Resiliency Assessment (<i>attachment</i>)	Tina Woolston
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations' Update (<i>attachment</i>)	Barbara Stein
Closing	Patricia Campbell

Section 3: Initial Indicators of Resilience

In this section, report on the current status of resilience indicators. These indicators will help track progress towards increased resilience over time, please take care to choose indicators that represent both the strengths and vulnerabilities identified by the campus/community structure. The indicators may be amended over time, as the campus and community work towards a shared vision of the future and begin to better understand their shared risks and vulnerabilities. Please share at least 1 indicator (up to 10) in each dimension of resilience.

Potential Indicators – for discussion:

- 1) Social Equity & Governance
 - a. Emergency Planning Capabilities
 - b. Support for those with access or functional needs before, during, and after emergencies.
 - c. Crime prevention/policing
 - d. Employee safety during emergencies
 - e. Communication Equity
 - f. Employees are financially able to support their families
 - g. Community Connections and Engagement
 - h. Training for extreme weather event response (e.g. heat, flooding)
- 2) Health and Wellness
 - a. Emergency Healthcare
 - b. Mental Health Services
 - c. Disease Prevention
 - d. Food and Water Security
 - e. Wellness Indicators
 - f. Planning for Health Emergencies
- 3) Ecosystem Services
 - a. Urban Green Space
 - b. Tree Canopy
 - c. Rain/stormwater Management
 - d. Resilient Vegetation
 - e. Debris Management
- 4) Infrastructure
 - a. Communication Capacity
 - b. Energy Efficiency
 - c. Flood-resistant Buildings
 - d. Backup Energy
 - e. Resilient Energy
 - f. Cooling Capacity
 - g. IT Infrastructure
- 5) Economic
 - a. Emergency Funds
 - b. Flood Insurance
 - c. Energy Revolving Fund
 - d. Adaptation Funds
 - e. FEMA Funding
 - f. Other potential metrics: Investment Risk, Diverse Funding Sources, Financial/emergency planning education

EV Charging Stations Summary, March 12, 2019

- We are working with an electrician to evaluate locations for electric vehicle charging stations in the Cousens lot, Aidekman lot, and station expansion in Dowling Garage.
- We have submitted an application to Tesla about a funding program they are currently running. We should receive a response from Tesla by May 1.
- We are 95% complete with a MassDEP grant for workplace charging stations and higher education grants.
- We are looking at whether or not citation revenue may also be available for use as seed funding.
- Our plan is to include some questions pointed towards EV motorists in the spring transportation survey.