

November 2013 – Green Labs Meeting

November 22, 2013

10-11AM

Present: Katelyn Blanchard, Kristin Blank-White, Cathy Brennan, Akhil Jariwala, Ashley Kiser, Christina Lebonville, Chris MacNevin, Amy Preble, Aaron Schmidt

December Meeting

Our December meeting was scheduled for Dec 27. Due to conflicting schedules and timing during holiday season, we will be cancelling this meeting.

Lab Closeout Letter

The final draft was distributed for review by Green Labs committee. It is scheduled to be sent out in January around the beginning of semester. In the past, it has been discussed whether to send it only to building managers or only to PIs. It was decided that it would be best to send it both directions in order to contact the greatest amount of people.

Survey/Introduction Letter

The survey will be reviewed by the Capstone class and they will revise it. The revisions and final draft will be discussed during the January meeting. The letter and survey will be sent out to all lab personnel.

Update on Green Labs Tabling Event at Campus Sustainability Day

Campus Sustainability Day was held with America Recycles Day in the Great Hall on 11/15/13. Green Labs participated by tabling and providing outreach for the Green Labs committee. Cathy Brennan handed out stickers and informational cards, and signed up six new people for the listserv. Overall, CSD/ARD was a very successful event.

Presentation from Capstone students

A formal presentation from capstone class will be held December 9 from 5-7 PM in Chapman 125.

In addition to the best practices guide, the students focused on three program areas: Green Lab Games, Interdisciplinary Course Offerings, and Medium & Long Term Implementation Strategies.

The class has spoken with other campuses about their practices and campus-wide initiatives. The class asked for Green Lab committee input on the idea of a program similar to "Freezer Challenge". The committee discussed incentives for PIs and whether changes would benefit PIs or the University.

The committee discussed the feasibility of proposing new initiatives on campus. It was mentioned that financial incentives are good motivating factors and have proven results in the past.

In terms of a Long Term implementation, House Bill 1292 designates 60% of money saved through energy conservation to be kept by institution. Labs are at top of list for funding designation. The committee discussed becoming involved in creating projects that this saved money can go to for further energy and water conservation.

For course options, the class has proposed several ideas for interdisciplinary courses and workshops covering Green Chemistry initiatives. Currently, even if green changes are made in the lab, oftentimes students aren't given education regarding why the change occurs or why Green Chemistry is important. Creating courses and workshops would require interaction between various departments on campus

and it would be incredibly beneficial to students' education. This curriculum is important for industries and safer experiment design, as well as public health. Such an initiative would provide real life applications toward becoming environmental stewards beyond the laboratory setting. The idea of representative from EPA's Green Chemistry initiative coming to speak at an event was brought up. The event could be co-sponsored with Green Labs and help generate interest in Green Labs and Green Chemistry practices.

A memo summarizing their additional work in further detail is attached.

Old Business

No additional updates for old business were provided.

New Business:

The possibility of Green Labs website expansion for new initiatives and programs and content was discussed. It would be great to post more content once the Capstone class has completed their project and our outreach involvement grows. Send any content you have to Cathy Brennan.

Janet Rupert expressed interest at Campus Sustainability Day + America Recycles Day in presenting to the Green Labs committee about the Asset Management Trading Post (or having someone present from Finance/Purchasing). She is interested in expanding the Trading Post's profile on campus and increasing participation.

Cathy Brennan asked Christina Lebonville (as one of the Trading Post's champions and few current participants) to present about it (as a lab employee, as opposed to someone from Purchasing) at the next Lab Safety meeting in January.