

CATF Energy Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Present: Mike Pacholski (FacOps), Philip Lang (Purchasing), Tom Callahan (A&O), Rich Milller (OEP), Mehdi Anwar (School of Engr.), Jay Johnston (ResLife), Jennifer Sayers (OEP), Doug Cooper (School of Engr.), Rachelle Howard (Chem. Engr.), John Bennett (School of Engr.), Ron Gaudet (FacOps), Brian Rozental (MBA Student Group), Stephanie Marks (OEP), Stanley Nolan (FacOps), Eugene Roberts (FacOps), Stefan Wawzyniecki (EHS), Meghan Ruta (OEP)

Next meeting: TBD (Early March)

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Updates

a. Fume Hood Outreach/Education Efforts

- Stefan updated the group that all fume hoods in chemistry (~150) have already been labeled with stickers that remind users to close the hood for energy conservation and safety reasons. The remaining hoods on campus and at the health center will also be labeled as long as funding can be obtained.
- The group will try to determine 'baseline' data for chemistry prior to the sticker implementation and compare to energy use from current months and/or comparable months from previous years. It was noted that the data should be normalized for weather differences.
- Jennifer is working with Ron, Stefan and others to develop a plan to survey the remaining campus fume hoods to determine how often hoods are left open, and to measure the impact of outreach/education efforts.

b. GHG Inventory Updates

- Meghan reported on the current status of the campus GHG inventories.
- The 2007 inventory is near completion. Scope 1 and 2 data have been collected and finalized. Scope 3 data is still being calculated. Specifically, the decentralized nature of air travel data has delayed the process.
- The inventory group is also working to develop a 1990 inventory baseline.
 - i. Priority is being placed on scope 1 and 2 emission, however, scope 3 will also be documented if the data are obtained.
 - ii. Kelly Wihbey in the Budget Office provided energy use data (expenditures and volume) for 1989-1994 by month for all UConn campuses. She has agreed to try to separate out the UConn Storrs and Depot campuses and will try to get that data to the group as soon as possible (~ 2 weeks).
 - iii. Transportation fuel use may be more difficult to obtain. The earliest records available are in the mid-90s. There may be opportunity to estimate use based upon a trend line or by obtaining records from the state.

III. Proposed Survey

A copy of an Excel version of the proposed survey was distributed to workgroup members for comment.

- Detailed discussion followed to clarify particular proposed initiatives and the format of the survey.
 - It was clarified that the survey is meant to only rank proposed initiatives on their emissions reductions potential. Workgroup members should not consider associated costs or potential barriers to implementation at this time. (The next stage of the evaluation process will address these issues/concerns.)

- Workgroup members that may have difficulty estimating emissions reductions were instructed to assume that there is a 1:1 ratio between energy savings and emissions reductions (e.g. an initiative that results in large energy savings will result in large emissions reductions).
- The proposed scale will be adjusted to a 1-4 scale that corresponds with "Very Low", "Moderate", "Large", and "Very Large", respectively. These ratings are the amount of emissions reductions (and/or energy use reductions) that are likely to occur if the proposed initiative is implemented.
- Initiatives related to water use will be removed.
- The language of several proposed initiatives will be modified as per workgroup members' recommendations.
- Several behavioral initiatives were proposed at the meeting and will be added, including:
 - Work with First Year Programs to expand FYE course options to increase student awareness and knowledge of energy conservation/efficiency issues and, therefore, encourage behavioral change within the residence halls and academic buildings.
 - Organize more routine and campus-wide energy conservation challenges. Student groups could be offered incentives such as a monetary reward for participating if they provide proof that their efforts reduced energy used.
 - Increase educational opportunities and student projects within the residence halls.
 - Implement a residence hall appliance policy that would allow only energy efficient appliances (e.g. refrigerators, microwaves) and would limit the number of each appliance per room.
 - Require students to purchase their residence hall appliances from a campus rental program to ensure only models with the highest efficiency are used.
- The recommended changes will be made and the survey will be redistributed to the workgroup members.

IV. Meeting Follow-Up

Members that were unable to attend today's meeting are asked to review the draft survey (Energy_Feb11_DraftSurvey1.xls) and email any comments, questions, or concerns to Meghan as soon as possible (Meghan.ruta@uconn.edu).

The file is available for download:

(Workgroup members will receive an electronic copy via e-mail from Meghan.)

V. Meeting Adjourned (12:00p)