

Joint Sustainability Council Annual Report

Fiscal Year 1July2014 – 30June2015

Executive Board: Theresa Van Veelen, Stanley Dean, Dan Rinsema-Sybenga

Administrative

- The college's Board of Trustees approved of the development of a fifth council, Joint Sustainability Council (JSC), reporting to the Coordinating Council in June 2014.
- After the start of the F2014 semester, representatives from the former Land Use Subcommittee and the President's Sustainability Task Force met to develop by-laws for the newly formed JSC.
- Following four meetings, the representatives approved the fourth draft of the by-laws by email voting before Dec. 19, 2014.
- During the W2015 semester, the JSC met four times completing an extensive five year plan of goals which will be revisited and updated each year.
- The JSC standing committees also met a few times to plan several items particularly Earth Week 2015.
- During Feb. 2015, a Fiscal Year 2016 budget request was forwarded to administration with the main components being: pond dredging, erosion control, and sustainability coordinator position amounting to \$552,434.00.
- Dr. Dale Nesbary donated \$500 to the JSC for our initial funds: two conference registrations, one new compost lid and a roll of small compost bags.
- Two JSC representatives, Darlene DeHudy and Kitty Rynberg, attended one day of conferences for the Governor's Recycling Summit May 2015.

Campus Land Use

- In response to our request, Muskegon Conservation District drafted some plans for native plantings near the library to replace the lawns due to a failing well. Estimated cost is approximately \$17,500.00. An executive decision was made to delay this initiative until we can find a local seed source.
- On 12May2015 four members of the JSC, including our student representative, plus another student and an alumnus student, planted some plants on the steep Higher Education hill to aid in preventing erosion.

Educational

- Earth Week on campus consisted of Love Earth Tree with Acts of Green, Wild Wacky Bin Toss Recycling game, Recycle What? Where? Game, continued showings of recycling PowerPoints in Collegiate Hall, and an earth week display in the library lobby. Two hundred and fifty life savers wrapped with sustainability tips were handed out. MCC joined the "A Billion Acts of Green" event by decorating a tree with green acts; approximately 20 were completed. Corene Kufra's class of art students did an art installation near the Overbrook Theater with recycled items. Earth week clean up along our roads, entrances, and nature trail was completed by students during the week. And our food service also had a special dining feature for the week: Pudding cup with "earthworms".

21 June 2018

- Also included during earth week was a theater show about Lake Michigan.

Facilities

- Construction of the new 19,000 square foot Life Science laboratories was begun off to the Northeast of the Stevenson Higher Education Area. It was this area that was decided to have the least impact on the Kasey Hartz Natural Area.
- Our recycling effort with Waste Management for January 2014 through December 2014 is the following:
 - We saved:
 - 74,759 kW-hrs of electricity
 - 1,849 gallons of oil
 - 430 gallons of gasoline
 - 221 mature trees
 - 125,518 gallons of water
 - 64 cubic yards of landfill airspace
 - Landfilled 136.92 tons 87.20%
 - Diverted 20.09 tons 12.80%
 - Total 157.01 tons 100.00%
 - We recycled:
 - Paper 0.6 tons
 - Plastic 0.1 tons
 - Aluminum 0.1 tons
 - Glass 0.2 tons
 - Cardboard 19.0 tons
 - The recycling and waste data used in this report is based on actual customer data, historic WM studies, and EPA averages. For a more detailed analysis of your waste stream, talk to your WM rep about conducting a waste stream audit.