



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING December 13, 2022 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

Present: Amy Mann, Sustainability Commissioner
Selin Eda Sagnak, General Student Representative
Ray DeSouza, Bursar and CAO
Lyndon Nobre, Director of Business and Ancillary Services
Shainiya Balachandran, Assistant Dean, Student Life, Dean's Office
Vikas Mehta, Executive Director Infrastructure and Sustainability – Chair

Absent: Jerico Raguindin, General Student Representative
Jake Knight, Alternate Residence Building President
Rebecca Muscant, Sustainability Co-Chair
Boomba Nishikawa, General Student Representative
Yashaar Daad, Burwash Hall Building President

Recording Secretary: Veronique Morris, Infrastructure and Sustainability

Attendance: Vikas Mehta welcomed everyone.

Review and approval of previous minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes held on September 27, 2022 by Lyndon Nobre and seconded by Amy Mann. Carried.

Business arising from previous meeting:

Amy Mann inquired about the installation of compost bins in residences. Vikas Mehta confirmed that the pilot project is going ahead and it will be managed by Jerry Nogas, Housekeeping Manager; Amy Mann to contact Jerry Nogas. The compost bins will be installed in common areas only to allow monitoring by housekeeping teams.

Lyndon Nobre updated the committee about the re-usable take-out container program. The current student engagement is at 5%. Lyndon Nobre reached out to VUSAC about how to better message the program to students; no feedback received yet from VUSAC. Lyndon Nobre requested Sustainability Commission's help to increase communication to students. Shainiya Balachandran suggested creating social media posters and updating the Dean's office web site. Posters have been put up already in Ned's Café and in the Burwash Dining Hall.

Lyndon Nobre informed the committee that the discount for re-usable mugs is in place. The Committee discussed the importance of on-going communication from all units as well to



promote sustainability. Vikas Mehta suggested posting the programs on the Sustainability Committee web page.

Lyndon Nobre addressed the issue of students' hesitancy towards the deposit for containers; Lyndon Nobre and Amy Mann to discuss separately.

Project updates:

Vikas Mehta informed the committee that the draft report for the geothermal phase 2 project has been received; I&S is waiting for answers to follow-up questions from the consulting firm. Overall the project in the MAH field yielded positive results. Vikas Mehta to update the Committee at the next meeting.

I&S will be installing two electric vehicle charging stations in RJ parking garage by mid-January 2023, which will be managed by Residence Services. An announcement will be sent to the Vic community once units installed are operational.

New business:

The Committee discussed student initiatives to reduce energy consumption in residences and how the University can help. Shainiya Balachandran mentioned that, in the past, the students participated in a water conservation challenge. Ray DeSouza suggested projects with a greater magnitude be chosen such as reducing the water temperature by 1 degree (i.e., water in showers). Amy Mann to discuss with VUSAC. I&S would provide monthly data per building; Vikas Mehta confirmed that the University does not have sub-meters at this time. Ray deSouza supported working on larger aggregate numbers using monthly data.

The following suggestions will be discussed at the next meeting:

- Water conservation – reporting leaks promptly
- Temperature reduction in potable hot water
- Hydro reduction by switching off lights in unoccupied spaces
- Waste reduction – diversion from landfill

Amy Mann commented that the students will want to know where the money saved be re-directed and see savings go back towards the cost of living.

Selin Eda Sagnak noted that the exterior garbage/recycling bins are not properly labelled. I&S team to re-label exterior bins.

Amy Mann asked that a fourth meeting be added to ensure enough time is given to address all issues. The Committee agreed to add an extra 15 minutes to each of the three meetings instead, starting February 2023.



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Comments and questions:

Amy Manny suggested that students not using the re-usable container program at Ned's Café be charged a fee to deter them from using single-use containers. The Committee expressed their concern about adding an extra cost to students' charges. Lyndon Nobre will get in touch with the Chestnut office at UfT to review how their program is working for potential implementation at Vic in 2023.

Next meeting: to be scheduled last week of February 2023.