



MINUTES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING February 10, 2025 from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm (Teams Meeting)

Present: Justin Liou, Sustainability Commissioner, Victoria College
Anandita Vishnoi, Sustainability Co-Chair, Victoria College
Meadow MacDonald, Building President, Victoria College
Faith McDonald, Student Representative, Victoria College
Vikas Mehta, Interim COO, Sustainability Committee Chair
Scott Johnston, Associate Dean, Office of the Dean of Students

Absent: Kate Haliash, Student Representative, Victoria College
Carly Jazbec, Sustainability Chair, Emmanuel College
Ajay Sharma, Associate Director, Hospitality Services

Recording Secretary: Ivy Hussain, Administrative Manager, Infrastructure and Sustainability

Attendance: Vikas Mehta welcomed everyone.

Review and approval of previous minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes held on December 6, 2024, by Meadow MacDonald and seconded by Faith McDonald.

Business arising from previous meeting:

Vikas Mehta shared the residence utilities usage spreadsheet for period of September 2023 – September 2024. Faith McDonald inquired regarding cooling of Margaret Addison Hall in the Summer. Vikas Mehta responded the usage in residences is from summer camps and business and that there was reduced usage when there was no hoteling business on campus. Vikas Mehta noted that users have better control over utilities usage. Residence occupants can reduce usage by shortening shower time, turning off lights when not in use, turn off air conditioning during cool nights in the summer and raise thermostat settings.

Scott Johnston inquired what percentage of utilization of water would be operating utilization. Vikas Mehta responded noting data can be reported starting February 2024 onwards for 1 year to track usage. Vikas Mehta noted there were no peer group studies available; therefore, Vic U's usage cannot be compared to another university of the same size.

The Net Zero project includes review of past 5 years of utility data and ASHRAE Level 1 energy audit for Vic U.



Motion to add the Associate CAO, Financial and Revenue Services in the Terms of Reference by Vikas Mehta and seconded by Scott Johnson.

Faith McDonald inquired if Vic U has established a staff representative in Burwash Dining Hall for feedback on sustainability initiatives, such as food waste. Vikas Mehta confirmed that Ajay Sharma, Associate Director, Hospitality Services is the representative. In January 2025, ChopValue project was implemented at Burwash Dining Hall with Sustainability Committee students.

Project updates:

Vikas Mehta shared the project updates including projects from Ajay Sharma for the Burwash Dining Hall:

- Organic waste is collected in green totes, and we have data on the volume of organic waste.
- Recyclables and garbage separated in all areas. 2024 Waste audit will be available in a few weeks.
- Alcohol empties collected, managed, and returned for a refund to the Beer store.
- Eco Container programs; move away from disposables.
- Continued procurement of Local produce.
- Installation of water fountains in Ned's Café and Old Vic.
- Vegetarian/ Vegan foods reduce carbon footprint.
- Firewood usage rigorously monitored – reduce wood burning and prioritize wood from campus.
- ChopValue implemented per Justin and students' suggestions. Justin to have conversation with Scott regarding ChopValue in residences.

New Business:

Vikas Mehta noted that the 2023-24 Annual Report will be updated on the Sustainability webpage. The report will include initiatives accomplished and including projects with sustainability components that Vic U added through the year, such as the ChopValue project. The 2024-25 Annual Report initiatives will also be updated on the Sustainability webpage.

Comments and questions:

Scott Johnston inquired regarding tracking garbage in residences and the Goldring Student Centre (Ned's Café and student groups) in terms of the volume of garbage and recycling produced. Vikas Mehta responded that the Vic U campus audit is for entire campus and not specifically for residences. Scott Johnston inquired if a separate audit can be performed for each residence. Vikas Mehta to speak to Jerry Nogas, Manager, Campus Operations to inquire and noted that the waste volume for campus is difficult to measure for individual buildings through annual waste audit.

Faith McDonald inquired regarding the volume of organic waste from Burwash Dining Hall was from students not finishing food or unserved food and/or overproduction. Vikas Mehta responded that the Eat After Eight program has now increased from two to three days a week to reduce food waste and there was food waste reduction from Events held at Vic U.



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Next Meeting:

To be held in-person in March with Blackstone Energy.