

Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of 26 Jan. 2006

Present: Fu-Hsian Chang, Ryan Hilmer, Kyle Crocker, Jon Utley, Will Bakke, Wendy Larson, Lois Jenkins, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Tessa Haagenson, Anna Carlson, Dave Bahr, Pat Welle, Jess Schaum, Pat Rogers

Wendy Larson and Erika Bailey-Johnson, Co-Chairs, convening

1. Powerpoint presentation given by Dave Bahr on the Minnesota's Energy Future: Community Energy and Economic Opportunity Forum, held at the Northern Inn on November 15, 2005. Information was gathered by student attendees from the Physics Department and prepared by Dr. Bahr. Please contact Dr. Bahr for further information and details. Responses to the presentation included those of Dr. Chang – regarding a study that was carried out during the 90s by the CEESS at BSU on biowaste conversion – and Dr. Welle on the economic feasibility of conversion to biofuels.
2. Ryan Hilmer of Residential Life presented information on the recycling program at BSU. He commented on the amount of waste recycled annually – 8.25 tons. He noted that the waste recycled at BSU helps Beltrami County come closer to meeting their mandated goals. However, BSU actually loses money because of the associated costs of recycling. A discussion followed on the possibilities for increasing the rate of material recycled on campus, as well as ways to create awareness about recycling and/or have more people participate in the recycling program.
3. Ryan also briefly discussed the LEED program for sustainable buildings. He brought up the website “usgbc.org”. The “green building resolution” proposed by Steve Spigarelli was mentioned and will be e-mailed to all members for comment. It has been suggested as an addendum to BSU's environmental policy statement.
4. A discussion was held regarding MnScu building standards, and it was noted that Bill Hanson, MnScu building consultant, is willing to present to our committee the building project process from inception to completion. Erika will contact Rich to arrange a time when Bill can present to the committee. The Concordia Language Village was also mentioned since they have been in the local media for constructing a green building they call BioHaus.
5. Bill Maki will be attending a future meeting to discuss environmental goal-setting.
6. Our next meeting will be Feb. 9th, 2006.

Respectfully submitted by Tessa Haagenson and Erika Bailey-Johnson