

**Macalester - Groveland Community County
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 17, 2010 | 7:00 PM

Edgumbe Recreation Center | 320 South Griggs Street | Saint Paul

Members in attendance: Melanie Peterson-Nafziger, Gena Berglund, Mary Davis, Michelle Crain, Craig Skone, Lauren Anderson (staff)

Guests: Nancy Hone, Alan Muller, Carol A. Juerland

Meeting called to order: 7:02pm

Approval of May 2010 Minutes: Motion to approve was seconded and passed with the following correction in the section on the composting pilot "After goals are developed, work plan *will go...*"

Added to agenda under Other Business: none

Anaerobic Digester Presentation

Nancy Hone from Neighbors Against the Burner and Allan Muller, who is an Energy & Environmental Consultant, gave a brief presentation. They explained anaerobic digestion as a series of processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable materials in the absence of oxygen, which is used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste and/or to release energy. Some of the complications they presented include contamination of biogas produced, inability of the digester to handle wood materials, odors, usability of the digestate produced, whether this is the best use for compostable materials, and uncertain impact on the community of human health.

Native Garden Awards

Craig gave an update on the 2010 Native Garden Awards. The Top 20 Native Plants guide was completed in May and is also up on the MGCC website. The nomination form is also available online – this year's deadline was moved up to Friday, July 16th, 2010. Judges will be recruited from the Native Garden Interest Group and judging will take place in late July. Melanie can make award signs again this year and will leave the year off. Lauren will send information to past winners, the Villager, and the E-Illuminator.

Composting

The 2010 Composting Pilot is now underway. Thanks to Michelle and Craig who were able to help Lauren and ER drop bins off to neighbors in the pilot area and affix labels to each and every bin. There will also be some continuation of composting home visits throughout the summer.

Eco-forums

The Committee gave brief background on the Eco-forums, which is a partnership with the Summit Hill Association and were intended to happen every 2-4 months with both organizations helping to put the forums together. There are similar programs that take place at Mississippi Market and other venues throughout the community. The committee would like to target topics on which it already works including composting, lawn care/ native gardening/ permaculture, physical activity (biking, walking). A permaculture speaker will fit well into Summer 2010.

Clean Energy Jobs Resolution

The MGCC Board of Directors would like this resolution to be written in a way that relates more directly to Saint Paul. Gena & Melanie will work via email to create a new draft that will have a similar message in support of clean energy jobs. Mary suggested voting in favor of the new resolution via email so the resolution can go the Board at the July meeting instead of waiting until September.

MacGrove Moves

Melanie would like to have committee members drop off filled brochure holders at local businesses. Gena will take J & S Bean Factory, Mary will take Coffee News Café and Shish, Michelle will take Coffee Bené and Pea Pods, Craig will take Espresso Royale (formerly Brewberry's) and Melanie will take Acme Deli. Gena already took brochures to Saint Paul Academy, Ramsey Junior High School, and Highland Park Junior High School.

Meeting adjourned: 8:07pm

Addendum – the Committee passed the following resolution via email on July 3rd, 2010:

Statement of Support for Strong Clean Energy Jobs Legislation,
to Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

• *Proposed Resolution:* As trustees for our community, we call on you to work for passage of strong climate and clean energy jobs legislation in 2010. A strong bill is vital to curbing global warming, clearing our air, increasing energy independence, reducing consumers' utility bills, and creating new green jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Immediate solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change are needed to protect the health of Minnesota's residents and the viability of Minnesota's crop lands and northern forests, including the Boundary Waters, which scientists say are at risk from warmer and more severe weather, drought, and invasive species because of global warming.¹ Investing in clean energy legislation will directly affect our Saint Paul communities by potentially providing the following benefits:

- New jobs and new uses for existing facilities and sites,
- New opportunities for local organizations to work on improving quality of life in Saint Paul communities (for example the grant that is funding work by Transit for Livable Communities in

¹ *Weflenis, Kathleen.* "The Crossroads of Climate Change." *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.* Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Jan/Feb. 2001.

Saint Paul this year);

- Opportunities for Saint Paul residents to continue to save money by increasing their home energy efficiency during our cold winters and hot summers;
- Incentives and resources for buildings to increase their energy efficiency, since U.S. commercial and industrial buildings emit 45% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions² and use 30% of their energy consumption inefficiently or unnecessarily;³
- Opportunities for business owners to save money. \$20 billion would be saved if the energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings improved by 10 percent;⁴
- Cleaner air and water in Saint Paul. If the energy efficiency of commercial and industrial buildings improved by 10 percent, the greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by the equivalent of removing about 30 million vehicles from our roads;⁵
- New opportunities to implement policies and programs that help Saint Paul define itself as a clean energy city (e.g. Mayor Coleman's Sustainable Saint Paul Initiative);
- Other direct improvements in citizens' lives, for example by reducing coal-based mercury emissions in our fish and waters and reducing pollution in our urban air and hopefully helping to slow the increases in asthma in Saint Paul youth.

Strong legislation should include the following criteria:

- Ensure that we meet reduction targets by reducing global warming pollution from outdated power plants;
- Retain the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate global warming emissions;
- Increase renewable energy and energy efficiency standards to create clean energy jobs;
- Invest more in clean energy and protecting consumers, communities, and natural resources.

We urge the Senate to strengthen, defend, and pass a strong clean energy jobs bill. Passing a bill this year is a much-needed response both to the climate crisis and to the persistent need for new jobs in the state of Minnesota. It's time to transition away from a primary reliance on fossil fuels⁶ and toward a new clean energy economy of which we can all be proud.

² Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas and Sinks: 1990-2005. "USEPA #430-R-07-002, Table 2-16: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector and Gas with Electricity-Related Emissions." April 2007. 14 June 2007
<<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport.html>>.

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ENERGY STAR program. "Useful Facts and Figures." No date referenced. 1 June 2007
<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=energy_awareness.bus_energy_use>.

⁴ Energy Information Administration. "2003 CBECS Detailed Tables. Table C4A. Expenditures for Sum of Major Fuels for All Buildings, 2003." December 2006. 1 June 2007
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cbeecs/cbeecs2003/detailed_tables_2003/2003set14/2003html/c4a.html>. Energy Information Administration. "2002 Energy Consumption by Manufacturers--Data Tables. Table 7.9 Expenditures for Purchased Energy Sources, 2002." 2002. 1 June 2007
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mecs/mecs2002/data02/excel/table7.9_02.xls>.

⁵ Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas and Sinks: 1990-2005. "USEPA #430-R-07-002, Table 2-16: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector and Gas with Electricity-Related Emissions." April 2007. 14 June 2007
<<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport.html>>. From Table 2-16 US Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector (CPPD Approved Source) Commercial Total CO₂ = 1024.98 mmt Industrial - Electricity Related Only CO₂ = 679.7 mmt Total CO₂ = 1704.68 mmt Using US Climate Technology Cooperation Gateway Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator (CPPD Approved Source/Calculator) 1704.68 Million Metric Tons CO₂ = 304,951,699 vehicles; 10% reduction for Challenge = approximately 30 million vehicles (Source: EPA).

⁶ The combustion of fossil fuels provides 86 percent of energy used each year in the U.S. According to Energy Information Administration. "Energy Overview." Annual Energy Review. Table 1.1. 2005. 1 June 2007
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/pdf/pages/sec1_5.pdf>.