

# Sustainability Steering Committee Minutes

11/19/2020, 2:00 – 3:30pm

## Zoom attendees:

Gail Lee, Rowena Eng, Eli Perszyk, Barak Albeg, John Rosendo, Benjamin Levie, Michael Kennedy, Monica Mapa, Veronica Villalon, Georgina Arias, Dan Henroid, Melanie De La Cruz

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action Items
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome Benjamin Levie, new Campus Energy Manager</li> </ul>	
UACS Sub-committee priorities and SSC collaboration – Gail Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UACS members are taking a more active role than in the past. They have formed 4 subcommittees:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Health, Buildings &amp; Operations, Communications, and Academics</li> </ul> </li> <li>- At the first UACS meeting of FY21, each subcommittee discussed and identified their priority projects for the membership cycle FY20-22               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Their role is to persuade and influence UCSF leadership around these projects</li> <li>o How can the SSC workgroups help support their projects?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Health Subcommittee projects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Include sustainability into value analysis of contracts</li> <li>o Cost transparency for the 5 most expensive items or top 10 purchases</li> <li>o Choose reusables over disposables when possible</li> <li>o Improve understanding of infection control policies, as they are often a barrier to implementing in waste reduction projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Buildings &amp; Operations Subcommittee projects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Defined their project prioritization criteria: cost/value, environmental impact, feasibility within 2-year timeline, support any pre-existing projects, align with existing UCOP policies</li> <li>o Mandate reduction and replacement of freezers with Energy Star models                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michael: Is it better to keep an old refrigerator (reduce and reuse) or upgrade to Energy Star (save energy)?</li> <li>▪ Gail: Our focus right now is on Carbon Neutrality goal, which doesn't account for embodied energy. We are focusing on the energy we use. We also have an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) policy to reduce by 2% each year, so it is preferable to upgrade to Energy Star instead of keeping an old, non-efficient model.</li> <li>▪ Ben: for ULT freezers, replacing with Energy Star is a "slam dunk". They are more space efficient, produce less waste heat, roughly 50% more energy efficient.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Support LEED for operations and green leases                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gail spoke with Alicia Murasaki about focusing on green leases instead due to past history of low cost/benefit to LEED EBOM certification</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Connect buildings to chilled water system and install heat recovery</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Academics Subcommittee projects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Project criteria: budget, opportunities to leverage ongoing programs, opportunities to engage supportive leadership and generate recommendations for them to implement projects</li> <li>o Climate Reset – developing materials and engaging strategy conversations about reducing carbon as we transition out of the pandemic</li> <li>o Multi-level communication strategy to reduce carbon</li> <li>o Process to share environmental health and climate change patient education material in UCSF clinics</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Communications Subcommittee projects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Outreach and education to the greater SF community on UCSF's climate action                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ben: how firm is this carbon neutrality goal? Is there a risk of bad PR if we publicly announce this goal but not meet it?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Everyone:</b> send Gail any projects or ideas that fit into the UACS subcommittees' projects by 12/4/2020</li> <li>- <b>Michael and Gail</b> to set up meeting re: reusable curtains or other common purchases</li> <li>- 1-2 SSC members to join each UACS subcommittee at their next meeting on 12/9/2020</li> <li>- <b>Gail to connect Monica</b> with Communications subcommittee by 12/9/2020</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gail: Former UC President Napolitano set this goal (“if UC can’t achieve carbon neutrality, then who can?”) New President Drake is supportive of reaching this goal to the best we can.</li> <li>▪ John: all campuses are going to meet carbon neutrality with offsets. Part of the communications will need be educating the public and creating a positive image around our offsets strategy</li> <li>▪ Cost of offsets range from very cheap (\$2-4/metric ton) to very expensive (\$10-12/metric ton), mainly due to the verification process (in-state vs. out-of-state)</li> <li>▪ Michael: UCSF is not afraid to step into the light and push envelope about our goals</li> <li>○ Incorporate climate change and carbon neutrality goals into department-and UCSF-wide communications</li> <li>○ Training and mobilizing advocacy work</li> </ul>	
<p>COVID energy efficiency projects – Melanie De La Cruz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome Melanie De La Cruz, new part time Sustainability Analyst. Also works part time as researcher in pediatrics lab</li> <li>- Lab Fume Hoods: Asking labs to consolidate and decommission unused chemical fume hoods until buildings return to 100% occupancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with EHS and Facilities, conducting outreach to labs</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Clare suggested taking an Opt-out approach for Campus breakrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Power off any extra or underutilized kitchen appliances on campus</li> <li>○ 654 Minnesota workgroup agreed to turn off 3 out of 4 refrigerators between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</li> <li>○ Also targeting other administrative/office spaces (MCB, Mission Hall, etc)</li> <li>○ Labs will need additional outreach and approval</li> <li>○ Working with Retail to turn vending machines off</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Carbon Offsets Draft Policy – Gail Lee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UC-wide Climate Change work group drafted new policy language around voluntary carbon offsets</li> <li>- Will be presented to the UC-wide SSC meeting in January for final approval</li> <li>- Draft policy has been widely distributed for comments and feedback at all UC campuses</li> <li>- Gail will summarize all UCSF feedback and submit Monday</li> <li>- All members are invited to review draft policy and provide feedback by Monday 11/23: <a href="https://livinggreen.ucsf.edu/getinvolved/draft_uc_offset_policy">https://livinggreen.ucsf.edu/getinvolved/draft_uc_offset_policy</a></li> </ul>	
<p>Green Home Certification – Rowena Eng</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Green Home Certification is newest addition to the LivingGreen Certifications. Existing certifications include Office, Lab, Clinic, and Event Planner</li> <li>- Checklist of things anyone can do to reduce waste, energy, toxic chemicals, etc in their homes. Participants must complete enough to score 70% to receive certification</li> <li>- Goal is to keep employees engaged in sustainability while working remotely and also to spread awareness around carbon offsets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Office of Sustainability offering incentive to buy 1 ton of offset for anyone who achieves certification. Participant can choose their project from CoolEffect.org</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Annual Sustainability Report and Awards Ceremony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Should we keep the Sustainability Awards Ceremony as annual event or switch to every other year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Event is used to honor Sustainability Award winners and LivingGreen certificate holders</li> <li>○ Our 2020 awards ceremony was held virtually in June. Didn’t get as much participation due to conflicting events. Encountered difficulties switching to virtual event and scheduling a convenient time</li> <li>○ Challenge for this FY is that everyone is working remotely and not participating in sustainability programs like the LivingGreen Certifications</li> <li>○ Event is time-consuming to organize</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ben, Veronica, and John agree that keeping the awards as annual event is important to keep community engaged</li> <li>- Dan pointed out that recognition is the key goal, so consider other ways to recognize employee efforts</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Chancellor says he enjoy the awards ceremony and being able to recognize individual employees</li> <li>- Veronica also emphasized importance of keeping the Annual Report every year, so we can look at opportunities for improvement and recognize successes (ex: there are stories about discarded PPE reaching the Bay)</li> </ul>	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transportation's Commute Survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Georgina emphasizes that the survey is for everyone at UCSF, not just frontline employees working on campus. Everyone should take survey regardless of whether they are working remotely or not, whether they take public transit, bike, or drive to work. Only exclusion are contractors.</li> <li>o Survey will close early December, but might get extended if they need more responses</li> <li>o <a href="https://ucsf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehC7IKMdbsdhURT">https://ucsf.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehC7IKMdbsdhURT</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Safe Medication Disposal education material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Veronica and a CNI fellow worked on patient education material on how to properly dispose old medications. Information is posted on Sustainability website and includes fliers and medication drop-off sites around UCSF: <a href="https://sustainability.ucsf.edu/learntosort/safe_medication_disposal">https://sustainability.ucsf.edu/learntosort/safe_medication_disposal</a></li> <li>o Also working to incorporate resources into Apex and EMR due to increase of telehealth visits over in-person visits during COVID</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Sustainability newsletter listserv: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Gail encourages everyone to add the Sustainability Newsletter signup link to their email signature</li> <li>o Every year we lost about 1,000 subscribers due to student and staff turnover</li> <li>o More difficult this year to engage new subscribers due to remote work</li> <li>o 3 signature lines to choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UCSF is <b>advancing health worldwide</b> through sustainability and environmental health. <a href="#">Sign up for monthly updates.</a></li> <li>▪ We're committed to protecting the health of our people and planet. <a href="#">Sign up</a> for sustainability news and updates from across UCSF.</li> <li>▪ We're making UCSF more <b>safe</b>, <b>sustainable</b>, and <b>resilient</b>. Learn more by subscribing to the <a href="#">LivingGreen newsletter</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Final Words from Co-chair – Dan Henroid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important to continue to reward and recognize sustainability efforts on all levels</li> <li>- Ensure that some of the great work that has been done trickles down</li> <li>- We have a lot of lofty and aspirational goals (e.g. Parnassus Hts revitalization), important to continue transparency and communication to UCSF stakeholders and broader community</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	Wednesday, January 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2:30-4pm	