

Minutes

SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

March 28, 2011

The Sustainability Task Force meeting was called to order by Merry Rankin at 11:40 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 515 Clark Avenue. Those in attendance included: Adam Papesh, Andrew Tulp, Matt Santee, Chris Knorowski, Erv Klaas, Tom Elston, Monte Streit, Jen Malone, Jim Gaunt, Gerry Peters, Mary Jean Baker and Steve Schainker.

Merry Rankin reminded the group of the schedule for all of the upcoming meetings. She explained that this will be the last meeting where presenters will be in attendance. Future meetings will focus on reviewing draft reports from the various sectors.

Updates From Sectors

Matt Santee reported that the Student Sector is making progress and that Allison Kraft will be filling in for him over the summer, pending the Mayor's approval.

Jim Gaunt from the Faith Based Sector explained that their report was up to 15 pages. They received results from a survey representing 44% of the kilowatt hours used by the sector.

Mary Jean asked if there are any funds available for their group to send out information. Merry promised to look into this request and get back to her.

Gerry Peters from the Non-City Government Sector advised that there had not been a meeting with their group since the last task force meeting. He reported that in preparing his budget, they have developed baseline information. They are looking to install high efficiency lighting at the gym, pool, auditorium, and media center. They are hoping to reduce consumption by 7%. They are also exploring additional metering at the high school to determine how to reduce electric consumption. They are also looking to install motion sensors in the hallways.

Jim Gaunt hoped that any new building in the school district would follow the LEED or Energy Star guidelines. Gerry emphasized that the Ames School Board is committed to energy efficiency efforts.

Erv Klaas from the Residential Sector informed the group that they had met before Spring Break and would like the City to apply for a state grant. This grant would be used to establish automated monitoring systems in homes that provides feedback to homeowners regarding energy use compared to their neighbors. The group will be meeting with Steve Schainker, Merry Rankin, and Don Kom in the near future to discuss this grant possibility.

Jen Malone from the Business Sector reported that they had met twice since the last task force meeting. They reviewed the process used by two businesses in accomplishing energy audits. They are working on their draft report.

Jen reported that the businesses' audit reports showed that most of the energy usage was in plug load. For those businesses that rent and don't own their buildings, many of the improvements are the responsibility of the property owners. A challenge the renting businesses find is that the owners don't normally want to make capital investments in their properties unless the payback is very short. Therefore, the business sector is looking at focusing most of their efforts on plug usage.

Adam Papesh and Andrew Tulp from the Building Contractors/Developers Sector have explored what other cities are doing to establish green guidelines in building codes. Some are offering incentives to builders/architects who exceed energy code requirements by some percentage. The question to the community will be, "do we want our builders to exceed current state standards that are already more progressive than most other states?" In addition, "do we want to encourage that existing buildings meet new guidelines by a certain date?"

Tom Elston from the Civic Sector reported they are working with the Chamber to create a new recognition program, whereby any businesses that agree to do an audit and adopt certain energy efficiency improvements will be profiled in the Ames Tribune.

Presentation by Bill Good, Des Moines Public Schools

Mr. Good shared his experiences with the Task Force members. He emphasized the importance of:

- measuring consumption before you can reduce it
- sending our energy report cards periodically
- performing energy audits
- creating energy plans
- recognizing and rewarding positive actions
- creating partnerships

Presentation by Dan Krohn, Becker Underwood

Their efforts reduced consumption by 9.5% by engaging in the following activities:

- changing to T8 lighting
- installing solar PV system
- reducing power factor
- participating in power curtailment
- installing occupancy sensors

Lesson learned from their experiences include:

- get buy in
- provide resources
- find the money

- learn to do things yourself
- collect the data
- keep pushing ahead

Presentation by Bill Diesslin, ISU Environment Health and Safety

Mr. Diesslin shared his simple tips for reducing electric consumption in an office setting:

- install centralized powerstrip for printer, computer, and shredder that allows for items to be collectively switched off at the end of the day and not using energy in “ready” mode at night and over the weekend
- reduce overhead lighting intensity
- switch to individual drip coffee maker instead of multi-burner coffee machines
- install an on/off plug switch for microwave ovens and other appliances that use energy in “ready” mode
- unplug cell phone charger
- install more efficient light bulbs

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting will be April 11, 2011, 11:30am – 1:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers