

Present: Tiffany Curtis - HDS, Tim Lehmann - HDS, Stephen Jensen - GSAS, Cassandra Freyschlag - SEAS, Meoko Yoshitomi - GSAS, Eric Uva - HKS, Allison Myers (last name has changed) - HKS, Peter James - HSPH, Sophia Wen - College, Gracie Brown - College, Warren Anderson – Extension School, Steve Jordan - GSE, Alisyn Johnson – GSE, Julia Roos - HSPH

#### 7:00 Gathering at table.

As members gathered, they were asked to sign-up to do a presentation at a later HCC meeting.

#### 7:05 Introductions

Karen invited each person to introduce herself with the following information: name, school, a brief description of the student group/school they represent, and how they became involved in sustainability and environmental activities.

#### 7:25 Intro about HCC

Karen briefly described how HCC will function this year, with emphasis on getting to know each other, sharing ideas, and promoting inter-school collaboration; Emma mentioned the following logistical tasks: need to fill HCC membership by finding a second representative at schools that currently have only one representative on HCC; need for an HCC scribe to take meeting minutes at each meeting—all volunteers welcome

#### 7:30 Student Presentations

HDS representatives gave a brief presentation on how they incorporated sustainability into new-student orientation.

Tiffany, a second-year student who helped plan orientation, described what was planned: EcoDiv met with orientation coordinators to talk about ways to incorporate sustainability into orientation events, and ways to make environmental focus present throughout events.

Orientation included:

- compostable food and food accessories and announcements about composting
- EcoDiv table at orientation fair, with sign-ups for EcoDiv mailing list, HDS Community Garden, 350.org, and Environment Society; Giveaway bookmarks that featured a schedule of events on one side and a picture of an on-campus tree with info about that tree on the other side.
- A handout about green spaces and businesses near campus.
- EcoDiv planned an outing on the Saturday of orientation to introduce new students to the Somerville Growing Center, which was to host the Viva La Vinal music festival that day, but it was cancelled due to rain.
- Hosted a back-to-school freecycle a week after orientation.

Tim Lehmann, a first year student, commented on what he noticed as a new student at orientation:

- Composting at all the food events.
- He was especially impressed by the announcements about composting, made by students and the Director of Facilities, Roy Lauridsen. who also spoke about current sustainability initiatives at HDS, such as organic lawncare, and a LEED gold building.

Tiffany and Tim shared ideas that were considered for orientation this year, but were not

done:

- A display about where energy and water come from to give new students an orientation to the place and what resources make it possible.
- Green neighborhood tours.
- Giving more specific information about HDS facilities, and about who students can talk to if they have suggestions or questions about facilities.

#### 7:42 Questions

Karen invited everyone to ask questions specifically about the HDS presentation? Questions included:

Q: Any resistance from staff and faculty?

A: Our orientation is run by staff and student orientation coordinators.

Q: How did composting work?

A: HDS already has composting in its café and facilities, so orientation composting was just a matter of using compostable materials and providing the proper compost bins.

Q: Is there a good place to get compostable wear for smaller events?

A: This is a question for the whole group to consider.

Q: What happens with the compost at HDS?

A: It goes to a pig farm in Saugus.

Q: Is there more information about how that works?

A: HDS reps can provide this info at a later meeting. An HSPH student noted that their compost goes to a different composting facility. Composting options are a topic for another meeting.

Q: How did composting get started at HDS?

A: The HDS reps think that it was begun by staff, and not the result of student pressure.

Other comments:

-Last year's HCC report is a good resource for new HCC members to learn about what student groups did last year.

-Office for Sustainability has worm compost bins and can provide support to schools that want to use composting in their offices for small amounts of waste.

#### 7:55 Small Group Discussion

The large group divided into 4 smaller groups for conversation based around the following questions: How was sustainability incorporated into orientation at your school? What can you apply from the HDS presentation?

#### 8:10 Small Group Reports

The large group reconvened and shared highlights from each small group.

- The first group talked about GSE and the lack of sustainability initiatives at orientation and, more broadly, Steve Jordan requested input about how best to promote an environmental education academic program at the school. The large group briefly discussed the particular challenge of developing an organization or programming at GSE because most of the students are there for only one year, and so there is no continuity in student movements. It was said that HCC might be able to support GSE initiatives by providing continuity from year-to-year, and also by helping GSE students demonstrate to GSE administrators that there is support outside GSE for curriculum and administrative changes at GSE.
- Also discussed was the importance of finding out who is responsible for orientation at your

- school? students, office of student life, other administrators?
- The second and third groups shared the following ideas for orientation, some of which have already been done by HCC-members:
  - Distributing coffee mugs or bags that feature energy statistics from the school, or ideas for reducing energy use; distribute CFL light bulbs or water bottles; note that statistics or green tips on a coffee mug will probably get more public exposure than a bag or household items that are kept in private; pair an orientation gift with a pledge from the school to change behavior (i.e. give out a Sigg water bottle and say “we are no longer using plastic water bottles on campus); note the law of large numbers, ala tipping point.
  - Sophia Wen mentioned Massachusetts Power Shift, a statewide network of student climate activists, planning a large campaign this fall. More to come on this.
  - Since orientation is a time when people are learning about Harvard, make a push during orientation about Harvard valuing sustainability. “By joining Harvard you are buying into this commitment.”
  - Start talking to orientation planners early in the year to prepare for next year.
  - Emphasize sustainability, environmental commitment in literature and on the website before students even arrive to campus.
  - Give new students a map about where water sources are located, and share options for what to do if you leave your mug at home, etc.
  - Be persistent. Find out what is at the root of resistance.

#### 8:25 Resources brainstorming

Karen and Emma invited everyone to brainstorm resources for doing sustainability work at Harvard—including people, funding sources, facilities, etc.:

- HEEN (Harvard Energy and Environment Network): calendar, website and email list, and conference (website will be up soon)
- HUCE Course guide (Harvard University Center for the Environment): available online only, the course guide lists environment-related courses across the university
- Rob Gogan, head of Harvard’s recycling and waste management, is very supportive
- Jack Spengler, School of Public Health, professor, also teaches at Extension school; he is supportive of collaboration across schools
- Massachusetts Power Shift (several members of HCC are in this group)
- Office for Sustainability
  - [energy@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:energy@fas.harvard.edu): email address for suggesting things that could be done more efficiently
  - Dara Olmsted: email to post events on the website
- Directors of Facilities, especially at Div School, HSPH
  - use the actions taken at other schools to put pressure on own school

#### 8:30 Meeting Adjourned