

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

February 17, 2022 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Erin Irish, Melissa Meisterheim, Isabelle Mullins, Laura Ponto, Emily Schmitz, Mary Trachsel, Jenna Wischmeyer

Absent: Amber Crow, Sam Schauer

Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros,

Ex Officio: Glen Rogers, Tony Senio, Charles Stanier

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guest: Peter Thorne

1. Call to Order

2. Announcements – Open to all present

3. Impromptu new business for this agenda – Open to all present

4. Liaison updates

- Blake Rupe:
 - The OSE has started to compile a list of earth month activities on campus/in the community. We have a Qualtrics we're sharing around for people to submit their events. More info is here: [iowa-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/brupe_uiowa_edu/EXu9h--yK0dLmqvAc7iXmmEB3PNOieuXllj8gpqSsHORkA?e=I6lfyW](https://my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/brupe_uiowa_edu/EXu9h--yK0dLmqvAc7iXmmEB3PNOieuXllj8gpqSsHORkA?e=I6lfyW)
- Beth McKenzie:
 - We will be hosting a sustainability student conference on Saturday, April 9th. Students from any Iowa college/university are invited to attend: onesustainableiowa.com/2022-conference
- Stratis Giannakouros
 - Michael Weber has been invited to speak on April 18 (with Engie)
- Ben Fish:
 - [Iowa recognized #3 university in the country for green power use](#)
 - #4 green power producer in the country because of our renewable fuels
 - Working 2030 goals into the strategic plan will help us to move forward with these goals even further:
 - Parking and transportation going electric
 - Creative ideas to produce new renewable energy sources
 - Looking at the Iowa River water waste as well
 - Provide feedback on strategic plan: now.uiowa.edu/2022/02/campus-community-can-provide-feedback-uis-2022-27-strategic-plan
- Charlie Stanier:
 - Charlie recorded a lecture regarding greenhouse gases in Iowa as a state
 - stanierlab.org/post/stanier-on-iowa-s-ghg-emissions-with-connections-to-agriculture-and-other-sectors

- Decarb 2040
 - research.uiowa.edu/decarb-2040-%E2%80%93-positioning-iowa-energy-exporter-coming-era-deep-decarbonization
 - Thur Apr 21 - IMU
 - Welcome & the Solarization of Iowa
 - Lunch and Awards for Small and Large Governments in Iowa
 - How can decarbonization lead to stronger rural communities?
 - Social Hour and Organization Information Tables involving students
 - 4:00 to 5:00: Keynote speaker, Saul Griffith
 - Fri Apr 22 – Old Capitol Senate Chamber
 - Decarbonizing Difficult Sectors of the Midwest Economy (including Ben Fish)
 - Financing Decarb Research and Development
 - Noon – Lunch – Speaker Barbara Wilson

5. Guest discussion with Prof. Peter Thorne

- NIEHS will commit \$100 M in funding before 9/30/22
- EHSRC will be positioned to apply for these funds (environmental health sciences research center)
- CPH Collaboratory application under review
 - Large data bases will be of focus
- Iowa Climate Solutions Challenge will launch in March
- Jumpstart-HAB
 - Water health focus
 - Funded for one year
- Innovations Lab
- Local concerns
 - Opposition to wind turbines and solar farms based on misinformation
 - Vulnerability of net metering
 - Public transportation needed for Cedar Rapids to Iowa City commute (light rail) but this is uncertain
 - Methane as a greenhouse gas is largely ignored in Iowa
- Recent activity at the US EPA
 - Previous GOP formed science board illegally, so the process of recreating policies is underway
- The need for Iowa-produced corn in a future with e-cars
 - 8 million acres of corn goes to ethanol which won't be needed in ~10 years
 - There is very little land needed to create needed solar energy (80k out of 27 mil acres)
 - Future farmland use will be impacted
- Water Quality
 - Legislation is very complicated; EPA will be creating a policy to have a framework prior to when a case on this topic is heard by the Supreme Court in May 2022
- Tips on personal sustainability choices
 - Educate, advocate for science, provide teachable experiences at formative ages
- Noise pollution

- Traffic on I-80 vs wind turbines
- Infrasound
 - Below the level of normal hearing
 - People believe this is causing adverse health conditions
 - There is also suggestion that there is vibration and shaking homes
- EPA ability to regulate carbon: supreme court decision
 - It is uncertain if the current Supreme Court would take away this ability to regulate; 1990 policy allowed for vehicle regulation which may allow for this ability to regulate to be maintained
 - yaleclimateconnections.org/2021/11/supreme-court-to-weigh-epa-authority-to-regulate-greenhouse-pollutants/
- Harmful algal blooms in Des Moines
 - If Sailorville and Raccoon lakes have HABs at the same time, Des Moines drinking water supply will be at risk
 - fmr.org/legislative-updates/water-crisis-des-moines-why-does-river-city-need-wells

6. Next meetings:

- Mon, Mar 7: 10:30 AM – noon
- Thu, Apr 14: 10:30 AM – noon (Guests: Jenna Wischmeyer – SCC member and FM Environmental Compliance Director; Dean Nembhard – CoE)
- Mon, May 16: 10:30 AM – noon
- Summer meetings TBD

7. Adjournment