Meeting Minutes

DLR Group
Architecture Engineering Planning Interiors

1650 Spruce Street, Suite 300
Riverside, CA 92507

Meeting Date	10.21.2021
To	Hussain Agah, Mehran Mohtasham, Myra Nava
From	DLR Group
Location	via ZOOM
Project	RCCD: Sustainability and Climate Action Plan
Project No.	N/A
Attendees	Lindsey Perez, Hussain Agah, Rana Tayyar, Linsey Graff, Christi Scott, Mehran Mohtasham, Brian Kohl, Daniel Gregory, Chip West, Tonya Huff, Jennifer Lawson, Jennifer Bielman, John Adkins, Mark, Diana DeCastro, Toni Rangel, Joshua M Orlando, Kirsten Gerdes, Diana DeCastro
Purpose	Riverside City College Open House

- **Welcome: Opening Remarks**

- **Activity: Discussions around four topics:** Reference mural for responses to the questions.
  - Energy Use and Decarbonization
    - What barriers keep you from using a more sustainable commuting option?
    - What are the ways that you as an individual can reduce the amount of energy use?
  - Recycling and Waste Reduction
    - What improvements would you make to Norco College's Recycling Program?
    - What ways can you be more intentional about reducing the amount of waste on campus?
    - Have you taken any courses that have addressed Waste Management?
  - Water and Eco-Systems
    - Have you taken any courses/engagement that have addressed water and eco-systems?
    - What are ways that you as an individual can reduce the amount of water you use?
    - What should Norco College do to reduce the amount of water used?
  - Health and Well-being
    - What are ways that you de-stress on campus today? What are ideas to improve?
    - What active spaces do you use on campus to feel physically well?
    - Are there places on campus that you find comfortable? What makes them feel comfortable?

Link to Mural for Activity for Viewing only:
https://app.mural.co/t/firstworkspace3639/m/firstworkspace3639/1634562016468/2e5eebfe4e4156df65b3a6c056e7f37f4a8d2d7b?sender=lgraff4904

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

SUSTAINABILITY OPEN HOUSE

0 INTRODUCTION

WELCOME!

RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

SUSTAINABILITY OPEN HOUSE

Welcome, from Chip West, RCC, VP for Business Services

Welcome, from Hussain Agah, RCCD Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning & Development

TODAY WE WILL BE ASK YOU TO CHAT WITH US ABOUT FOUR TOPICS:

- Energy Use and Decarbonization
- Recycling and Waste Reduction
- Water and Eco-Systems
- Health and Well-being

THESE TOPICS WERE IDENTIFIED AS MOST IMPORTANT BY YOUR PEERS.

WE WILL SWITCH TOPICS AFTER 15 MINS!

1 DECARBONIZATION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Energy Use, Decarbonization and Climate Justice

15 MINS

WHAT BARRIERS KEEP YOU FROM USING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUTING OPTION?

- More electrical vehicle chargers
- Safety (both in terms of infrastructure and personal safety standpoint) — Bike lanes! Look pretty — Bikes in the way
- Lack of bike lanes on my path to campus
- Not coordinated schedules with other employees
- Metrolink not available for local commute.
- Time! The bus would take nearly 3 times as long as my car.
- Lack of public transportation at the right hours
- Success from Jennifer switching to an electric vehicle.
- Showers Facilities needed for bikers
- public transportation is not very equitable for people with disabilities in this area

WHAT ARE WAYS THAT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOU USE?

- Turn off lights
- Buy less stuff
- Close exterior doors to keep heat and ac in the building
- making adjustments to older building to fit todays mindset for ecofriendly. We have some current building that are ecofriendly so making adjustments such as light fixtures like Mehran mentioned
- Need to change this: The library keeps the all the lights on all night and weekends. We also keep the computers on. All 250 of them. We have asked for this to be changed but go unheard. — Plug loads — Lights — Computers! — Image is unavailable
- Minimize a/c use in summer and heat use in winter
- More solar-powered lights etc.? — Solar panels and EV car ownership are 90% of the higher energy themselves in LEED with the exception of photovoltaic energy calculations — Lack of awareness of this issue — Side by side — Not enough solar panels
- Agreed on the solar! We have a very large campus that could use more solar. We could also focus this on the education opportunity for our community and students.
- At the Culinary Academy, the City of Riverside requires us to recycle food waste separately from regular trash.

DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL DECARBONIZATION AND CLIMATE JUSTICE.

- Land use to bring down the impact of heat island, even to the vehicles.
- So you want solar over the vehicle parking areas.

2 RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION

Recycling and Waste Reduction

15 MINS

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD YOU MAKE TO RCC'S RECYCLING PROGRAM?

- Actual have a plan for recycling!
- We do not recycle. I have seen trash being thrown out right along with the recycling. I am assuming they say they do not have time to do the trash twice or have multiple bins for both.
- We need a real recycling program - mixed use and green waste bin next to every landfill bin.
- Need to make sure our campus community understands HOW to recycle and that it is actually BEING recycled. People have lost confidence in the process, and thus do not separate their stuff
- Started a clay waste recycling process in the ceramics studio but lack the equipment to do it on the scale that's necessary for the ceramics program
- Signage with examples/pictures of commonly accumulated waste products
- Custodial management needs to support the custodians in their effort to manage the recycling. They have to be given the time to do so, and the management has to embrace the recycling culture
- It would be good, too, if the campus community was educated as to what happens when the recycling is contaminated.

WHAT WAYS CAN YOU BE MORE INTENTIONAL ABOUT REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF WASTE ON CAMPUS?

- Packaging!!!!
- Change Mindset: There is a tremendous amount of wasteful behavior on campus. Very disposable mindset
- Definitely education - for EVERYONE on campus from faculty to classified professionals to students. What can go in which bin and why it's important.
- Reusable cutlery and plates at least for catering on campus
- It would be good, too, if the campus community was educated as to what happens when the recycling is contaminated.
- Go paperless in our processes
- Refillable whiteboard markers
- Bamboo utensils
- And it should. The ground here by the library in the grow area is decomposed granite. We have a need and source. They need connecting.
- Related to Food Waste: Food waste goes into the trash. It does not get composted.

HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY COURSES THAT HAVE ADDRESSED WASTE MANAGEMENT?

- As a geography and environment major -- focuses on sustainability topics. Scale of environments from individual to planet. Impact of littles changes on larger systems.
- Educating students can turnaround and educate family and friends.
- Food Rescue and Waste Reduction Ambassador program through City of Riverside

3 WATER AND ECO-SYSTEMS

Water and Eco-Systems

15 MINS

HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY COURSES / ENGAGEMENT THAT HAVE ADDRESSED WATER AND ECO-SYSTEMS?

- Our Sustainability Champions program hosted a drought-tolerant landscaping workshop this summer (but it wasn't super well attended)
- Highlight great stories like Brian's ceramic 3-bucket system
- everything is a teaching experience
- Share what facilities is doing - recylced water @ MVC

WHAT ARE WAYS THAT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WATER YOU USE?

- Pay attention to drips/leaks, broken sprinklers/geysers
- Eat less meat (so offer more / more affordable veggie options in campus cafeteria)
- Native plants bring native pollinators!

WHAT SHOULD RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE DO TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WATER USED?

- Have water filters set up at water fountains and buildings with need
- Pay attention to drips/leaks, broken sprinklers/geysers
- We have a large drainage ditch that is cemented in. That could be a good place to have an opportunity for change.
- Collect rainwater on campus
- Our culvert is a great opportunity to collect some ground water for recreational use, such as water table, or use for later when we need our plants watering.
- 3 bucket clean up system in our glaze room. — Sustainability Champions hosted an event on this! — Sinks and tip-tide process do well!
- Drought-tolerant plants, succulents
- Collect the colder water when waiting for it to heat up, and use that colder water to water plants
- Ditch the grass! — As long as we replace the grass with cactuses or fake grass! — Native plants bring native pollinators!
- It would be nice to have a water feature (interactive?) that uses recycled water, maybe something people-powered

4 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health and Well-being

15 MINS

WHAT ARE WAYS THAT YOU DE-STRESS ON CAMPUS TODAY? WHAT ARE IDEAS TO IMPROVE?

- FUTURE IDEA: Recycled water feature
- People like the grass in the Quad — Expensive, have to water
- Access to Health and Wellness center for administrative professionals, faculty, administrators - currently only for athletes and classes
- I go to 'green' areas like by the gym.
- Outdoor gym

WHAT ACTIVE SPACES DO YOU USE ON CAMPUS TO FEEL PHYSICALLY WELL?

- FUTURE IDEA: Something people powered
- FUTURE IDEA: It would be nice to have some natural paths when we are allowed to take a break we do not have a place where we can just disengage. — We nice have an area like this, but it is not accessible — Lighting and safety concerns
- REFERENCE: There's a great place in Tulsa, Oklahoma called The Gathering. I think. Amazing interactive outdoor space, beautiful

ARE THERE PLACES ON CAMPUS THAT YOU FIND 'COMFORTABLE'? WHAT MAKES THEM FEEL COMFY?

- Sounds can be calming and restorative, too.
- OTHER IDEAS:
- we need better open spaces that have calming sounds or smells (e plants). Most are just set with concrete benches and grass.
- what can we do to help make our school more environmentally friendly? We want to be more apart of the process if it is engaging.