



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – August 8, 2018

Arcata Store, 811 I Street

Present

Board Members: Colin Fiske, Cheri Strong, Leah Stamper, Mary Ella Anderson

Member-Employees: Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal, Travis Morgan

Members: Roger

1. Welcomes and Review

At 6:48pm the meeting was called to order by Leah.

2. Approve Minutes

Consensus reached to approve the July 2018 minutes.

3. Member Comment

- Roger – what happened to bulk tofu? It's no longer visible. There is no way for a customer to know that tofu is available in bulk.

ACTION: Kiya will look into the bulk tofu not being available.

- Colin – we need more education on how to keep produce fresh while storing it at home.
 - o Leah – a book called Eating on the Wild Side has a lot about storing produce to maximize longevity and nutrients.
- Roger – I don't understand why we are selling Los Bagels prepackaged in bags. Their labels make them look like they are a deal when the bulk bagels are cheaper.
 - o Kiya – I've talked to Los Bagels and they know we don't like the plastic bags. They are looking for better packaging options.
 - o Colin – it's important for us to let them know that we want to reduce our packaging.

ACTION: Kiya will look into signage about bulk bagels being cheaper.

- Kiya – Eureka does a great job of sorting in the front tri-bins. Arcata is not doing well. We need better education on where our compost goes.
 - o We should be selling the worm castings from The Worm Guy at the stores.
 - o Travis – extra garbage cans around the Arcata store might be part of the problem. We should remove them.

4. 100% Renewable Energy Update – Reported by Kiya

We changed all paper products and gloves three weeks ago. We are buying these products on pallets, helping to save money. We are now using a more environmentally friendly paper towel and toilet paper and at the same time cutting our costs.

- Travis – Mendes has been very helpful and responsive to our needs to reach our goals of savings. I'd like to save \$1,800 month before switching to 100% renewable energy.
- Kiya – spoke with RCEA and is signed up for a program for both Arcata and Eureka to save energy during peak hours to earn credits/money.

5. Potential Local Vendor Opportunities for Package Reduction – Reported by Kiya

I attended a Humboldt Businesses on the Path to Zero Waste conference last week. We discussed how we can start influencing how local vendors package their products for us. Sending out our local vendor letter more often might encourage discussion for use of reusable delivery totes.

- Colin – is there an action plan for reaching out to vendors?
 - o Kiya – next step is to tour the different businesses. I need to create a relationship between the Co-op and their business and find a way to work with them to make changes. What can we offer to them? What can they do for us?

6. Parking Lot

The Arcata parking lot was repainted. The Zagster bikes are going in soon.

- Colin – should we continue pursuing parking lot designs or wait?
 - o Travis – wait for now. I have bids from local contractors for repaving and restriping.

ACTION: Travis will find out the expected lifespan for a repaved parking lot?

7. Sustainability Coordinator Update

The order has been placed for our “cooking in bulk” guide. It will be available in the bulk section soon.

We had a great Strawless Summer campaign. Awards were given to two employees who gave out the most Strawless Summer slips to customers. The employees were unaware there was an incentive to do so and were surprised and very pleased to receive a special reward.

8. Agreements

Next meeting will be September 12, 6:45-8pm.

9. Next Agenda Items

- Sustainability update
- Parking lot
- Zagster Update

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06pm

Minutes by Emily Walter

Floating Item: bulk alcohol