



# Earth Action Committee

Minutes – August 14, 2019

Arcata Co-op Conference Room, Arcata

**Board Members:** Cheri Strong, Leah Stamper, Colin Fiske

**Member-Employees:** Kiya Villareal, Emily Walter

1. **Welcomes and Review** - At 6:53pm the meeting was called to order by Leah.
  2. **Approve Minutes** - Consensus reached to approve the June 2019 minutes.
  3. **Member Comment** - Gophers are bad.
  4. **Bike Friendliness**
    - Reviewed an alternative transportation stamp card to encourage alternative transportation to the Co-op.
      - o Discussed what incentive/s to include with the stamp card program
    - Looking into fully equipped bike kits for member use at store with good advertising.
  5. **Plastic Utensil Alternatives**

ACTION: Kiya will investigate bamboo utensils to sell at registers and no longer offer plastic utensils for free.
  6. **Strategic Plan** – reported by Kiya
    - Policies and plans regarding EAC activities, stemming from the Strategic Plan, should be reviewed by this committee.
    - How do we coordinate with staff on policies/plans EAC wants to help write?
    - Request that Kiya report back on FY20 milestones for environmental responsibility and robust local economy.
1. **Sustainability Coordinator Update**

Kiya reviewed her Sustainability Report (Attachment A).

    - Green Teams are getting started. Employees have volunteered to participate.
    - Strawless Summer is happening the last two weeks of August.
    - LED lights are being installed. We are getting rebates and great energy savings.
    - Kiya is going to investigate a local industrial composter.
    - Living with less waste with city of Eureka – beginning their zero-waste planning. Kiya tabled with education about how to shop zero-waste at the Co-op.
    - Kiya is looking into participating with the Terra Cycle recycling program – we send empty packaging back for certain brands to be recycled.
  2. **Next Agenda Items**
    - Bike friendliness
    - Strategic Planning
  3. **Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting will be September 11, 6:45-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58pm

*Minutes by Emily Walter*

(ATTACHMENT A)

## **EAC Sustainability Update August 2019**

Prepared by Kiya Villarreal

### **In-Store:**

Green Teams are officially happening now. A sign-up roster is hanging in each breakroom. Old signage from tri-sort bins has been updated with a completely new look to bring more attention again.

Strawless Summer will be happening again the last two weeks of August- this year will be a straightforward raffle giveaway of Co-op gear including a few of our branded Bulk-bags.

We have successfully begun the LED lighting upgrades in partnership with RCEA for rebates of all qualified lamps (bulbs)!!!! This will result in an immediate reduction in our monthly energy use and save a sizeable amount of money right away on top of receiving a rebate for a portion of the cost.

Current monthly composting average is 4,227 lbs.

### **Community/City Involvement:**

In order to foster what I call the 'Cooperative Spirit' there is now a bag lending library where fellow shoppers can both add and borrow reusable shopping bags.

### **Events:**

May is Bike Month. The Co-op will have an energizer station at each store on May 9 and May 16.