



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – December 11, 2019

Arcata Co-op Conference Room, Arcata

Board Members: Cheri Strong, Colin Fiske, Roger

Member-Employees: Kiya Villareal, Emily Walter

1. **Welcomes and Review** - At 6:50pm the meeting was called to order.
2. **Approve Minutes** - Consensus reached to approve the November 2019 minutes.
3. **Member Comments**
 - Roger – we should have a month where we fill a bin with all the plastic that comes into the store as an educational opportunity in the front of the stores.
 - A member is upset they can't use WIC to buy bulk.
 - o ACTION: Kiya will write a letter to WIC.
 - A member requested the board take a stance against the Terra Gen wind project.
 - o The Committee agreed that there isn't time for the board to take a stance on this topic.
4. **Arcata Proposed Plastic Food Ware Ordinance** – reported by Kiya

This city ordinance is the farthest reaching of its kind in all of California to reduce the use of single use food ware plastics. Co-op staff recently met with the City to discuss the draft ordinance. The Co-op should be able to achieve what the ordinance is asking with a few changes. A draft of the ordinance with three alternatives will be presented at the January 18 City Counsel.

 - The Co-op be switching to disposable wooden utensils as soon as we run out of the plastic utensils that we already have.
5. **RCEA Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE)** – reported by Colin

RCEA is in the final stages of updating their CAPE plan. CAPE sets broad policies and priorities for what kinds of power RCEA will procure and what steps they'll take to address energy issues. Colin initially hoped the Co-op could submit input but it's a little late now.
6. **Strategic Planning**

The committee reviewed the goals and benchmarks for FY20 in the Environmental Responsibility section of the Strategic Plan which includes:

 - Plan for renewable energy
 - Communication plan for campaigning municipalities for composting facilities.
 - Policies written to incentivize durables and a marketing plan for the same purpose.

The committee will address these categories further at the January EAC meeting.
7. **AB 619** – reported by Kiya

AB 619 passed in July. It removes strictness of using your own durables for salad bars, hot bars and bulk. Shoppers can refill their own containers. The only stipulation is that the business has a written procedure for staff to know how to sanitize the workplace after a customer uses a their own durable. The Arcata health department is on board, but the Eureka health department is not. We won't be promoting this until we can roll it out in both stores.

ACTION: Emily will send the staff directive for incentives to Kiya.

8. Power Outages

Tabled.

9. Bike Friendliness – reported by Kiya

Graphics has created a sign advertising a bike kit available to members for use. A bike kit will be put to use in Arcata, and after seeing how that goes there will be one implemented at the Eureka store.

10. Sustainability Officer Update – reported by Kiya

- Writing a proposal to get small commercial composters for the stores.
 - o Looking into any regulations that may exist.
- Go Zero Eureka plans on making a video about how to shop in bulk at the Co-op.
- Kiya is going to start working more on sustainable education of staff and better implementing the Purchasing & Merchandising Policy.

11. Next Agenda Items

- Draft outline of communication plan for campaigning for a composting facility (Alex)
- Draft renewable energy plan
- Durable Incentives (discount) review a draft plan
- Best practices for generators (Jason)

12. Next Meeting Date

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm

Minutes by Emily Walter

EAC Sustainability Update December 2019

Prepared by Kiya Villarreal

In-Store:

On 12/6 from 2-5pm we will have a group of HSU interns tabling in front of the Arcata store echoing the efforts from the 3rd Annual Zero Waste Day. They will be able to answer questions regarding low-waste shopping and give support to our shoppers in the Bulk Department.

Another 10% off Bulk Foods (member-perk) will be running concurrently. The coupon is available on the Shop Local flier, which is displayed near the entrance of both stores, and to the email list.

Co+efficient surveys are due by the end of the year. A report will be generated and turned into the EAC once completed.

Compost:

Based off the best use food recovery hierarchy we will begin diverting more food waste as edible scraps, instead of sending to The Worm Guy. Staff training materials are being generated to leave eggshells and coffee grounds completely separated from (animal) edible scraps.

Health Department regulations are being collected regarding on-site small-scale composting.

Community/City Involvement:

The 3rd Annual Zero Waste Day was another successful partnership with the City of Arcata, Zero Waste Humboldt and W.R.R.A.P. Next year we have confirmation that the City of Eureka (EcoEureka) is interested in having a concurrent event; both of our locations will be able to host a Zero Waste Day.

A Bulk How-To video is in the pre-planning stages to be featured on GoZeroEureka.com. The video would take place at our Eureka location. We currently have a timeline of creating the video beginning in February based on their response of availability.

Live projects list:

- Green Teams- approved but so short staffed so have not been scheduled by managers yet
- Bike Friendliness- Deadline during the first blackout of October. Decided we don't need the "logo" at this moment to implement the principles of bike friendliness.
- Terra Cycle Recycling Program- We have the programs bags for collection but not a place to put collection sites for the brands.
- Internal staff training videos for proper sorting around the stores