



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – February 8, 2023

Zoom Call

Board Members: Roger, Brenda Harper, Laura Jones, Michael Connors

Member-Employees: Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal

Members: Harriet Hill, Holly K., Kate McClain

1. **Welcomes and Review** – At 6:00pm the meeting was called to order.

2. **Approve Minutes**

Roger would like to amend the wording of his comment about car transportation to the Co-op.
Consensus to approve the November EAC minutes as amended.

3. **Member Comments**

- Holly – As discussed at a prior meeting, if the meeting is held monthly, I'd try to attend. There's a lot of talk about transportation, so I'm surprised this meeting was scheduled at the same time as a big transportation meeting in Eureka.

4. **Plastic Reduction**

- Harriet – (1) eliminate products in plastic shells – the non-recyclable take-n-bake pizza shells. Can people drop off the pizza shell at the register (could it be reused)? (2) encourage people to bring their own containers in bulk, hot foods, and deli. (3) have butchers ask people if they want their meat in just the butcher paper, not just automatically in plastic bags. I wish the chicken hearts and bones were on display in the meat case. (4) create an isle that is completely plastic free. (5) avoid using bio compostable plastics/shells. (6) don't buy food that comes in plastic. I'd like to get people to table in front of the co-op to talk to shoppers about this and get their support.
 - o Kiya – I've been trying to fix the pizza issue. I've found a compostable tray/lid but have not yet been able to convince the deli department to use them.
 - o Mike – my household feels the same way. We don't like getting the plastic clams either. What if the Co-op could offer both?
 - Emily – I love Mike's idea to start introducing fiber-based packaging in the deli while still using the bio plastic. Roll this out with a lot of outreach to educate folks about why they should buy the fiber based. Let the consumers have a choice.
 - o Holly – the meat department paper is lined with plastic. So, it's not much different than wrapping with paper and when I get meat in a plastic bag, I ask them not to also wrap it in paper.
 - o Kate – I would like the Co-op to do some kind of survey of the members about plastics.
 - o Roger – it would be great to get more member submitted information into the Co-op News. We can promote a letter writing campaign.
 - o Kiya - we have a new logo all about "Bring Your Own" container to use in all our departments. I've been working close with staff to make sure they all understand how to assist shoppers with their containers.
 - o Roger – I want to remind everyone that we are owners of the Co-op and keep that in mind when making suggestions.

5. **Sustainability Benchmarks**

Total Electric Consumption (kWh)

- This has gone down over the last three years.

Decision: Change the goal from $\leq 145,000$ to $\leq 140,000$.

Total Gas Consumption (Therms)

- The month-to-month numbers are curious with some really low numbers. We aren't sure how accurate these numbers are.

Decision: Change the annual target from $\leq 3,900$ to $\leq 2,500$

Sales of Local Products

- Local product prices have been all over the place over the last year as our pricing policies have changed. We're hoping to include better pricing on local products, to incentivize local products. $>26\%$
 - o Holly – what is local? Do we have a tiered local system?
 - o Kiya – it has to be from Humboldt, Del Norte or Trinity Counties. We could look into having a two-tiered local system. A second tier could be CA.

Decision: Change the annual target from 20-23% to $\leq 26\%$.

Sales from Employees

Decision: Decided to remove this benchmark altogether since employees get such a great discount, there is no longer the concern about employees being able to afford to shop at the Co-op.

Will continue reviewing benchmarks at the next EAC meeting.

6. Composting – reported by Kiya

I would like more frequent pick-ups from small, local farmers of our compost, especially since we'll be getting rid our Arcata composter.

- Michael – create a separate face book page just for compost to advertise it.
- Emily – check in with FullCycle about their service or if they have suggestions.
- Holly – will look into social media groups to share this information with.

7. Sustainability Update – reported by Kiya

The CA CRV debacle continues and is very frustrating. The SB 155 Section 10 (2021-2022) ended the end of 2022 so Eureka will now have to start accepting CRV again. This is a major hassle for staff.

We are doing a “zero waste Market” for Earth Day. Zero Waste Humboldt is organizing the event and it will be a fundraiser for them. We already have 13 vendors signed up. There will be a food truck. This will be the biggest Earth Day event that we've had in many years, and it will be on a Saturday, coinciding with the Farmers Market. We will only be having an event in Arcata, and not Eureka. It will be on April 22.

8. Next Meeting Date

March 8, 2023, at 6pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Minutes by Emily Walter