



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – June 12, 2019

Arcata Co-op Conference Room, Arcata

Present

Board Members: Cheri Strong, Ivy North

Member-Employees: Kiya Villareal, Emily Walter

Members:

1. Welcomes and Review

At 6:45pm the meeting was called to order by Kiya.

2. Approve Minutes

Consensus reached to approve the May 2019 minutes.

3. Member Comment

The committee discussed current lighting situation in Arcata parking lot.

ACTION: Kiya will talk with Jason about the lights in the Arcata parking lot.

4. Strategic Plan Review

The committee reviewed the first two goal areas of the Strategic Plan to see what this committee is interested in keeping tabs on and being involved with. The following milestones were noted.

1) Community Hub

- Classes and workshops developed and implemented FY23
- System for evaluating products developed FY21

2) Racial and Social Equity

- Changes to marketing and recruitment materials made FY22

1. Purchasing Policy

- What is the implementation plan of the updated Purchasing Policy?
- Kiya reported on an article that is being written about beef for the upcoming Co-op News.
- Kiya has contacted a student from the HSU wildlife group about writing an article about palm oil.

2. Incentivizing Reusables – reported by Kiya

Accomplishments:

- Outreach materials created for shopping with reusables that are available in both stores.
- Physical demonstrations in stores at zero waste events, etc.
- New signage at the meat counters and hot bar that encourage shoppers to bring their own containers.
- Guide to zero waste shopping brochure available.
- Co-op News article and content on website about using durables.
- Laminated sheets in wellness department explaining how to use durables.
- Earth day event on site two years in a row.

Struggles:

- Non unified placement of product at different stores.
- No use your own durable encouragement signage at cheese/bakery cases.
- We still don't have a durable tracker button to get a baseline of how many shoppers are using durables. This could just be one or two cashier lanes that are interested in doing it for a day or two.

ACTION: Kiya will look into implementing selling bamboo utensils at the cash registers as an alternative to giving out plastic utensils. She will get a cost comparison of utensils.

3. Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Kiya is still looking into which equipment to get before submitting application. There are still plenty of funds available.

4. Sustainability Coordinator Update

Kiya reviewed her Sustainability Report (Attachment A).

5. Next Agenda Items

- Bike friendliness
- Plastic utensil alternatives
- Strategic Plan Review of sections 3 and 4
- Arcata lighting update

6. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be July 10, 6:45-8pm.

Kiya will write the EAC report.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm

Minutes by Emily Walter

EAC Sustainability Update June 2019

Prepared by Kiya Villarreal

In-Store:

We have been receiving increasing member comments by phone, and in person, expressing desires to remove more plastic from our fresh produce. Mendes (packaging/paper goods supplier) has informed us that a store south of here is hoping to switch their produce bags to the “backyard compostable” type. The Co-op did an internal test run of “backyard compostable” produce bags and there was not much to say that was positive. However, different results in warmer months could be expected. There is another brand selling this type of bag and their differences are being identified now.

Community/City Involvement:

The Co-op hosted a Bike to School program by Coastal Grove school on Thursday, May 23. There was a lot of involvement from parents and kids who met up at the Co-op to have a few provided and purchased snacks before continuing their ride to school as a large group of about 15.

The RCEA lighting audit for the Arcata store has been an invaluable resource in creating estimates for our upfront cost and the immediate monthly PG&E savings from fully switching to LED. No final decisions have been made at this time while we investigate lamp types and temperature preferences (‘lamp’ is commonly known as ‘bulb’).

25 employees have requested and received their Zagster promo code so far.

Events:

The Taste of Summer Kick-off June 22 will feature giveaway reusable bamboo forks to encourage shoppers to keep their reusables with them and use them! All previously printed info sheets and pamphlets regarding shopping each department in durables will be available in a central location.

Data:

Co+efficient deadlines for overall operations surveys, not only monthly data, are coming up. These require full cooperation from all departments and once completed will be sharable.