

BLUER Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2008

The meeting began at 1 pm with Jackson Denton, Dianne Herrin, Martin Indars, Tim Lutz, Courtney Marm, Scott Tornek, David Ward, and Jim Wylie attending. We welcomed many visitors.

I. BLUER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Minutes of the January meeting will be distributed with the February meeting minutes.

Follow-Up on Action Items:

- Exelon Data: Dianne and Tim reported that the new data have been received; Tim gave a preliminary view of how the data will likely change the preliminary GHG inventory.
- Henderson Data: Ryan was not present but we were told that the data are available. [Update: Data received.]
- Industrial Sector Update: Dianne noted that she has contacted National Foam and she will arrange a visit to talk with them about our work.
- Data Status/Plan for Analysis: Tim will update the GHG inventory to include the Exelon and Henderson data by next meeting and will give an interim email update to BLUER. Assuming that the Exelon data for commercial/industrial energy consumption are complete/correct, the database for the 2005 inventory will be complete. *This marks a milestone for BLUER.*

Energy Star

- Update: Dianne and Martin briefly explained Energy Star (E*) and the Borough's new conditional use ordinance. Brian McFadden has committed on paper to following Energy Star Guidelines although it's not required for this project. Projects by Zukin and McCool's (both pre-ordinance) are considering adoption of E*.
- Press Release: Dianne announced that the Borough of West Chester is the 1st municipality to pass an ordinance that requires E* for private commercial construction. Dianne distributed a draft press release for committee consideration. The group favors release as soon as practical.
- Plan of Action for Architect/Developer Training Session: EPA E* experts will come to West Chester to do a training seminar. A ½ day event, not open to public, is envisaged. A morning session will be for architects & developers. An afternoon session for building owners will feature use of the Portfolio Manager, a tool used to find out how to bring existing buildings to an E* rating. The event could tentatively occur by mid-March. *Actions:* Tom Andrews (WCU) will help determine if the Graduate Business Center could be used as a venue. Dianne and David will construct a contact list for potential attendees. [Update: The GBC has been secured and all fees will be waived. Scheduling of the training is currently underway.]
- Martin will inquire what it will mean for the Borough to become an E* Partner. He will report next meeting.

Website

- We reviewed the work to date; David distributed an outline which we discussed and agreed was good. It was suggested that we add "educator" to the list on page 4 and a Global Warming Q&A.
- David will compose individual committee input into a design. Action for all: Recommend images for website and contribute content as assigned per outline. Submit to Courtney by 2/8 so she can compile and return to us for review before our March meeting.
- We discussed options for hosting the web site. Scott will investigate possibilities and also will research a suitable domain name. We were reminded that Henderson HS has received a seed grant to get our website up and running. Nick, Henderson student, has created a skeleton for BLUER to consider and will e-mail it to the committee. Thanks, Nick!

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COMMITTEE BUSINESS (cont'd.)

Fundraising Plan

• Exelon SDF funding: We discussed submitting a proposal for a 2/15 deadline based on website needs and outreach expenses. We agreed to contact Exelon and submit a proposal, if possible, with Scott leading and assisted by Dianne and Courtney. *Action:* Scott to finalize and submit grant proposal.

Reports From the Field:

- Local Governments Implementing Conservation & Sustainability (LOGICS). Martin presented our E* efforts to the LOGICS group.
- WCU Focus the Nation. Dianne participated on a panel discussion at WCU regarding global climate change.
- Berks Community TV. Tim and Dianne participated in a panel discussion on this TV station to discuss West Chester's BLUER efforts.
- David reported on the Chester County GHGRTF effort. David, Dianne, and Tim are members of the task force.

VISITOR AGENDA ITEMS

• Tom Andrews/WCU Students

Tom's honor students are supporting BLUERs efforts, and he updated the committee about the projects his students had selected. We agreed there should be a BLUER liaison for each project group, and they have been assigned as such:

- Landlord/rental issues-Martin
- Restaurant festival-Tim; Megan Fogarty
- Alternative transportation-Courtney
- Alternative energy-Jim Wylie
- Local government initiatives-Dianne

• Mark Cassel, TMAAC

Mark explained what TMAAC is and described the multitude of organizations that are partners. The main objective is to reduce single-car commuting. We discussed a number of options, including car share programs. Transportation data may be available to help BLUER and we should maintain contact with TMAAC as we draft our Climate Action Plan.

The meeting concluded about 3:20 pm.

NEXT BLUER MEETING MARCH 7, 1 pm – 3 pm, ROOM 240