

NYCSHE Steering Committee meeting notes, February 5, 2018

Present on the call: Mary Ellen Mallia, Tom Kelly, Melissa Cadwell and Ryan McPherson

1. Membership report – We had four members join since the last call. This includes applications from Hobart, William, Smith, SUNY Purchase, Pace and SWBR consultants

2. Regional rep report – Alexander Lykins from Union has agreed to be the Regional Rep for the Capital Region, Mark Bremer from SUNY Poly (Utica campus) has agreed to be the rep for the Mohawk Valley. Recruitment is still occurring for the Southern Tier and New York City but no luck on getting a volunteer to be Regional Rep. Mary Ellen will be organizing a call for the reps this month.

3. Website report – Keith Camacho will be returning as the NYCSHE intern for the spring semester. Mary Ellen has a list of website updates to be performed. In addition to the news updates, Keith will be working to make sure the area of specialty page is current (<http://nycshe.org/membership/specialties/>) and investigate the formation of a similar page on sustainable technologies and techniques.

Mary Ellen also had a winter intersession intern look up selected STARS data reported by NYCSHE members. She will have an intern being to analyze this data and report on collective impacts.

4. Events roundup

NYCSHE webinar on LEED for Existing Buildings by DASNY on Feb 6 at 1 pm

AASHE webinar on Aggregating Higher Education Demand for Renewables webinar featuring University at Buffalo on Feb 14 at 3 pm

NY Green Building Conference on April 5-6

A request for a networking meeting at the AASHE conference (to be held Oct 2-5 in Pittsburgh) has been submitted

State of NY Conference will be hosted by Colgate and held on Nov 7 – 8. The group discussed the possibility of inviting the Chancellor to speak at the conference and consented to pen a joint invite from NYCSHE, SSC and the conference committee.

5. External liaison report –

NYSERDA:

- New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan released on 1/29/18 which plans to achieve 2.4 gigawatts of wind energy by 2030 and procurement of at least 800 megawatts in 2018 and 2019. Governor Cuomo commits to \$15 million for workforce training needed to build offshore wind and develop infrastructure. There is a webinar about this plan on 2/13 (1-2 pm and 6-7 pm).
- 20th proposal of the 2018 State of the State is an agenda to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow the clean energy economy (New York's Clean Energy Jobs and Climate Agenda). Agenda includes reducing emissions from highest-polluting power plants, investing \$200+ million to energy storage as renewable energy sources increase in the state, create the Zero Cost Solar for All program for low-income citizens, reconvene the Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change without political interference, and establish new energy efficiency target by Earth Day (4/22). Continuing REV (Reforming the Energy Vision) strategy and initiatives.

NYS Department of Public Service Commission:

- 126 megawatt Wind Farm in Chautauqua County approved.

Second Nature:

- 2018 Presidential Climate Leadership Summit on 2/4-2/6.

AASHE:

- Sierra (Cools Schools ranking) and The Princeton Review (Guide to Green Colleges) will use published STARS reports as the primary data source for their rankings. Sierra deadline is March 30, 2018. This change will provide institutions planning to submit for a new rating extra time to do so. Existing Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum STARS reports dated March 2, 2015 or later are still eligible; re-submission is not required. Princeton Review's deadline is March 2, 2018.
- 2017 Sustainable Campus Index and AASHE Annual Report is now out. Mentorship Program created to help members collaborate with other institutions to share knowledge, cooperate on projects.
- 2018-2020 Strategic Plan to better serve members by improving programs, services and provides direction for the organization.
- AASHE Conference & Expo will be in Pittsburgh, PA on 10/2-10/5.
- Member Orientation Webinar on 2/22 to explain benefits of membership to AASHE.

NYSAR3:

- NYS Organics Summit in Poughkeepsie, NY 3/27-3/28 to discuss composting, food waste and food recovery.
- New partnership with "Plastic Free Waters" an organization that was created to increase collaboration across public, non-profit, private and higher education sectors to reduce plastics/microplastics in waterbodies of NY and NJ.

CUNY:

- Borough of Manhattan Community College will purchase and install energy efficient fan coils to replace the original ceiling-hung fan coils as part of BMCC's commitment to EO88 and sustainability. They are also home to Manhattan's largest solar project with 947 solar panels on the main roof.
- York College has a pending new Academic Village and Conference Center that will hopefully include a roof garden.

NYS DEC:

- \$25,637 was awarded to Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities to purchase rocket in-vessel composting unit for food scraps from the community college, medical center and regional foodbank.
- Report released from the NYS Plastic Bag Task Force about single-use plastic bags with proposed legislation change for the state of NY (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/dplasticbagreport2017.pdf).
- Governor Cuomo proposed to amend the outdated forest laws to benefit rural communities by including funding for the Empire Forests for the Future Initiative. This offers a tax incentive to hundreds of thousands of private forest owners if they sustainably manage their land. NY currently offers forest owners a tax reduction but only if they plan to harvest the trees.

NYS Department of Transportation:

1. Start of a 3 year pilot program for 10 all-electric, zero-emission, buses to MTA's bus fleet with the intention of ordering 60 more.

NYS Governor's Proposed Budget Environmental Projects:

1. Increase funding for SUNY and CUNY with more than \$200 million in new resources
2. Require food pantries on all SUNY and CUNY campuses so students have access to healthy food options without the stigma
3. Continue the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of a \$2.5 billion investment in drinking water infrastructure and water protection actions
4. Continue Environmental Protection Fund funding at \$300 million for things such as solid waste programs, parks and recreations, open space programs and climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.
5. Advance the NY Parks 2020 initiative and create a new state park by converting landfills near Jamaica Bay.
6. Complete Hudson River Park
7. \$40 million for DEC capital projects
8. Contain and treat the Gruman contamination plume caused by the industrial waste from the US Navy and Northrop Gruman Bethpage manufacturing facilities
9. \$65 million initiative to combat update NY algal blooms
10. \$20 million to Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility
11. Expand access to NY grown agricultural products

The group also discussed a potential bill on food organics making its way through the NYS Legislature requiring institutions that produce over 2 tons of food waste a week divert this organic waste stream from the items sent to the landfill. This bill has been proposed before but appears to be getting some legs and worth keeping an eye on.

7. SSC report – The SUNY Coalition is working on developing potential metrics for the system based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This project could have relevance and applicability to NYCSHE.

8. Old business/updates

The Steering committee is looking into from a peer review committee for NYCSHE members that are submitting STARS reports.

A new NYCSHE logo has been developed. Mary Ellen will send out to the steering committee members to get final approval and then release to the members so they can use on their websites and in any recruitment or informational material.

Many NYCSHE members have been involved in aggregated renewable energy projects. A large project involving over a dozen campuses has been dubbed the "NYCARES" project. NYCSHE has hosted a couple of workshops and webinars. The project has gotten approval and support from SUNY Central Administration. The first phase of the project is expected to be rolled out this spring. Sandy DeJohn from Binghamton and Indu from UAlbany are taking the lead and campuses involved in the first phase should be receiving letters of intent shortly.

We have many potential webinars but are looking for campuses or individuals that have a webinar service that could be used as a hosting forum. If so, please contact Mary Ellen at mmallia@albany.edu or Marian Brown at mbrown@wells.edu

9. New business

No new business

The Steering Committee will meet via conference call on the first Monday of the month at 9 am. Next call will be March 5, 2018.

