

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Friday September 19, 2025, 9:00 – 10:00 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Bruce Murray (guest), Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: Rachel Chase

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Office and Institutional Updates
3. Sustainability Planning Overview
4. STARS Gap Analysis
5. Discuss/Schedule Fall Meetings

Agenda (with notes)

1. Introductions
 - a. Welcome to our new members (Liana, Jodi, and Rachel).
2. Office and Institutional Updates
 - a. Student Programs are running strong with the development of a new staff and faculty engagement program (including a “Sustainability Superstar” recognition program) and a great Sun Day community event coming up.
 - b. The SGA Green Grant is now in its third year. There is a Green Grant workshop in October and applications will be due before Thanksgiving. A donor has given additional funds for the Green Grant for FY27 through FY29.
 - c. Operational updates include the submission of the McCaffrey-Wagman Tennis and Wellness Center LEED application. The CIS application is still in progress and includes a switch to the newer version of LEED (v4) and potentially for the three-part submission to be combined into one for the whole building. As we replace mattresses, old mattresses are recycled through Casella (about \$42/mattress for recycling). The metering capital project is still in progress with the hope to add residence hall metering (and to utilize this for student programming).
 - d. Palmertown Range/Friendship Trails work in partnership with Saratoga PLAN and others is still in progress. The main spine trail will run across Skidmore’s northern lands and conversations are discussing routing, trail construction, and costs.
 - e. Dan and Tarah just finished up the Campus Decarbonization Academy (a program of AASHE) and will use the lessons learned to inform decarbonization/climate action

planning.

3. Sustainability Planning Overview

- a. CSS will be using a shared Teams folder for the planning process.
- b. Tarah is reviewing and developing a list of peer aspirant performance on STARS.
- c. The STARS technical manual will be a key document to guide and support planning discussions.
- d. Should the goal for the next plan be to reach STARS Gold for our next submission?
 - i. The Sustainability Office proposes submitting our next STARS report in late spring/summer of 2029.
 - ii. We want to make sure to set goals that we can achieve.
 - iii. This new plan will be more action steps than targeted goals (based on metrics).
 - iv. We would need to make up a 14% gap (about 32 points) in STARS to get from Silver to Gold.
 - v. There is a general agreement that using STARS as our guiding framework is a good choice.
- e. There will be four working groups (education and engagement, climate and energy, operations, and food) and each will review the gap analysis and develop their own goals and proposed actions.
- f. After the working groups present their proposed recommendations and receive feedback, Tarah will put together a draft plan (November/December timeline).

4. STARS Gap Analysis

- a. A gap analysis has been developed based on our STARS submission. The gap analysis identifies the key opportunities within each category.
- b. The threshold for gold is 151 points. Skidmore submitted at 118 points in the last submission, so 33 points are needed to reach gold (65% performance level).
- c. Potential opportunities have been sorted into three tiers. Tier 1 opportunities have greater impact (point potential) and/or feasibility, whereas Tier 2 opportunities would be lesser impact (point potential) and/or feasibility. Tier 3 opportunities are more involved/challenging.
- d. A reminder that all past points (credits that we have received points for) need to be maintained at their current level or higher.

5. Discuss/Schedule Fall Meetings

- a. Input was received on scheduling and follow-up correspondence, and meeting invites will be sent.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 05, 2025, 8:45 - 9:45 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Darren Drabek, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Bruce Murray (guest), Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: Celia Darling

Agenda

1. Food & Dining Working Group recommendations
2. Operations Working Group recommendations
3. Other business

Agenda (with notes)

A reminder that the four CSS temporary working groups have met for the past six weeks to discuss and develop recommendations for sustainability activities/actions that would advance Foundation 5 of the Strategic Plan. The purpose of this committee meeting is to share and discuss the sustainability planning recommendations of two of the working groups (Food & Dining and Operations) based on the STARS framework and gap analysis.

1. Food & Dining Working Group recommendations
 - a. Colson Warren, the student representative on the Food & Dining working group, presented the recommendations for food purchasing and sustainable dining.
 - b. In our last STARS submission, Skidmore earned 2.2 of 6 points for food and beverage spend that meets sustainability criteria, 0 of 2 points for dining service spend with social impact suppliers, and 2 of 2 points for the food recovery program (run by the FeedMore Club in partnership with Dining).
 - c. Skidmore uses a food calculator to track sustainable food purchases. All food expenditures for four months (Jul, Sep, Oct, Apr) are included. Previously the assessment has been done every year, though we have now shifted to completing the calculator every other year.
 - d. In FY24, approximately 4.4% of food purchases were local, 3.7% were sustainable certified, 4.0% were social impact suppliers, and 34% was plant-based.
 - e. The working group proposes a 15% positive food goal. This would be from 5% local, 5% sustainable certified, and 5% social impact supplier. The specific social impact supplier goal could be 5-10% (higher credit value if you can get to 10%).
 - f. Dining system recommendations include the elimination of single use disposable plastics food containers, utensils, and beverage cups and the ongoing identification

and piloting of sustainable packaging and plastic alternatives. Improving compost collections at events is another improvement area.

- g. We should emphasize data quality and tracking (vendor collaboration and labeling).
- h. There have been some initial conversations around the idea of having a container farm at Skidmore in partnership (operational and educational) with Foothills Farm.
- i. We may want to explore options to hire a student to support Dining directly with food purchasing research and support.

2. Operations Working Group recommendations

- a. The Operations working group reviewed credits and potential actions in the following categories: water use, ecologically managed grounds, sustainable procurement, purchased goods, materials management, and waste generation and recovery.
- b. It is recommended to develop a shared student project list that can be updated on a regular basis and shared with students, staff, and faculty for project-based learning.
- c. For water use, Skidmore is mid performance range by peer group with strengths in green infrastructure, stormwater management, and water efficient fixtures and equipment. There is opportunity to do rainwater harvesting via rain barrel pilot locations and to better estimate water returned through on-site green infrastructure.
- d. Skidmore is strong in the ecologically managed grounds category with a Sustainable Landscape Plan, Tree Care Committee, tree inventory, and the protected North Woods. Recommendations and opportunities include the development of an Integrated Pest Management protocol, publishing of a grounds chemical inventory, and piloting an organic site at the Wiecking/Sustainability quad (by the garden).
- e. Sustainable procurement is not an area that Skidmore has developed given decentralization, tracking, and oversight challenges. We currently receive 0 of 7 points for this category. We could consider developing a supplier code of conduct (policies and/or guidance) that would include environmental impact, treatment of workers, governance and ethics, sustainability in the supply chain, and monitoring.
- f. All new furniture (for major projects) that Skidmore purchases is sustainable certified and much of Skidmore's electronics and office paper has certifications. We could move to 100% sustainable cleaning products as a part of a green cleaning program.
- g. Within materials management, we have strength in surplus and reuse and electronic waste management. Eliminating single-use disposable plastics within Dining and hazardous waste inventory and management disclosure are the opportunity areas.
- h. Our waste generation performance is strong (75th percentile) when compared to the peer group, though there is significant opportunity to improve regular waste diversion through systems improvements and standardization, as well as outreach and training.

3. Other business

- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 21, 2025, 9:00 - 10:00 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Liana Krasnoff, Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: Jodi Frank, Bruce Murray (guest)

Agenda

1. Education, Engagement, and Equity Working Group recommendations
2. Climate and Energy Working Group recommendations
3. Other business

Agenda (with notes)

The purpose of this committee meeting is to share and discuss the sustainability planning recommendations of two of the working groups (education and engagement and climate and energy) based on the STARS framework and gap analysis.

1. Education, Engagement, and Equity Working Group recommendations
 - a. Academics – Suggested goals/actions include, 1) get five more department to offer a sustainability course, 2) provide course redesign incentives and create a community of practice, 3) develop a sustainability learning outcomes for undergraduate students. 4) conduct sustainability literacy assessment, combined with culture/awareness assessment, with a full representative biennial sample survey, and 5) provide incentives for sustainability research.
 - b. Engagement – Suggested goals/actions include, 1) aiming to reach 60% of the campus through communications, 2) having 30% or more of students participate in sustainability activities and improve event tracking, 3) conduct sustainability culture assessment, 4) advance employee engagement in sustainability through new employee orientation, programming, and an HR-delivered training program (e.g., a 15 minute mandatory annual training), 5) expand public Engagement with improved tracking of civic engagement participation, 6) acknowledgement of employee community service through blood drive, and 7) the development of community partnership guidelines.
 - c. Planning and Administration – Suggested goals/actions include the potential expansion of employee affinity groups, credit for the new student food pantry, and consideration of an employee small loan program and a living wage commitment.
 - d. Questions and feedback:

- i. It was acknowledged that Skidmore Cares does not count within STARS for the employee community service credit.
- ii. General agreement that there are a lot of potential points in this area and activities seem feasible and worthwhile.
- iii. There is a need to connect with HR on the mandatory training idea and recognition that HR is more focused on compliance, so a values driven training module is a bit different.
- iv. Including and standardizing sustainability content in student orientation, Scribner seminar, and summer literacy training is important. We are intentionally engaging with first-year students earlier and more often, which is good for engagement and retention. Sustainability is important to many students and elevating it will resonate with them.
- v. The Career Development Center has brought back alumni who have worked in sustainability. They are always looking to create pipelines for internships and hiring.

2. Climate and Energy Working Group recommendations

- a. Facilities and Sustainability is working to engage the Finance team more in these climate and energy conversations.
- b. Building Design and Construction – The Center for Integrated Sciences and McCaffery-Wagman Tennis and Wellness Center will be LEED certified and the Jonsson Tower renovations will be LEED but not certified.
- c. Building Operations and Maintenance
 - i. Green cleaning: We believe we can adopt a green cleaning policy in the future. We will need to make a few slight changes in process and chemicals, Dining has their own standards and we will need to work with them. Contractors would also need to follow the policy (primarily in apartments during turnover).
 - ii. Energy metering: We will also receive partial credit for energy metering (the capital project has moved forward and we will have JKB, TLC, and JoTo, plus the residence halls metered for electricity) and could aim for about 20% of building square footage. Tennis and Wellness Center and CIS also have metering, though it is not currently integrated into the power monitoring platform.
 - iii. Water performance: We will receive partial credit for efficient fixtures.
 - iv. Not looking at Indoor Environmental Quality at this time.
- d. Energy use improvements would require consumption reduction, which is not likely.
- e. Percent of electricity from on-site or certified renewable sources. No specific actions planned, though this is an area we have done some investigation and could look in to further.

- f. GHG emissions inventory - We will look at starting to include some of our capital good expenditures, such as vehicle and IT purchases.
- g. Vehicle Fleet – We do not have any plug-in vehicles (except the electric golf carts) and could also investigate options to include plug-in vehicles as leases come up or vehicles need replacing.
- h. Air travel – There may be opportunities to incentivize sustainable modes of travel and/or travel offsets. We would need to look at our Travel and Entertainment policy.
- i. In total, there are about 6 points (new/additional to our previous submission) that we think we can receive for climate and energy related credits
- j. We suggest the need for future discussions around on-campus solar (education and visibility, ideally Case, likely through the capital budget cycle), potential for another large-scale solar, hydro, or wind (long-term third-party partnership, cabinet approval, and review of utility and local governmental regulation), electric vehicle policy for the fleet, residential hall renovations, and geothermal conversions.
- k. Questions and feedback:
 - i. Goal setting and project work must keep the timeline in mind, especially as related to phasing out of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) investment tax credits. Solar projects would need to be installed and online by the end of 2027. Geothermal projects have a longer horizon (2030) at the moment.
 - ii. It is important for Skidmore to show climate action and walk the walk of the strategic plan.
 - iii. There is a need to have conversations with leadership about where to focus and how to move forward.
 - iv. It would be good to identify the opportunities for student projects within this work. And to find ways to engaged the student community broadly, through things such as energy competitions, peer to peer education, and literacy opportunities.
 - v. What about the baseball dugouts in terms of solar and wind? Would something there (or other spots) be good smaller opportunities for visibility and pilots?
 - vi. With the energy metering, we want to be able to show improvements and performance, before and after retrofit and renovation projects. Could we look at a specific commitment to more meters within the next five years (beyond the residential)? Five more meters – one per year?

3. Other business

- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 8:45 - 9:45 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Celia Darling, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Bruce Murray (guest), Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: Darren Drabek, Christine Page

Agenda

4. Sustainability planning
5. Other business

Agenda (with notes)

A few administrative items were raised first, including spring scheduling (seven 1-hour meetings are proposed and a doodle poll will be sent) and completion of outstanding minutes.

1. Sustainability planning

- a. A big thank you to everyone for their hard work in the working groups, input on recommendations, and reviewing the draft.
- b. The primary goal of the meeting today is to get input on the draft plan. Committee members should send additional edits and comments to Tarah directly.
- c. The plan is in draft form and we have time to adjust before sharing with others. We wanted to get the plan to this detailed level in order to have meaningful conversations with leadership. This draft plan is more of a roadmap than the past sustainability plan.
- d. The plan starts with an introduction of sustainability progress and metrics we may want to track. It articulates that STARS is being used as a guiding framework and then mirrors the strategic focus areas: sustainability literacy, climate action, and environmentally responsible operations. We make an attempt to address how we will do this work by acknowledging responsible offices and clarifying process.
- e. In terms of the recommendations, we are suggesting various actions and projects, though we are generally not committing to a specific target. There are a few more specific measurable goals in the literacy and engagement categories. The action timeline is the roadmap of which action we propose doing each year. There is a clear need to report and communicate on an ongoing basis.
- f. Committee members shared feedback and comments. The draft plan is comprehensive, effectively structured, and as concise as is possible (given the breadth of proposed actions). The primary objective is to elevate Skidmore's STARS rating.
- g. For the action timeline, we should add a resource column and consider the inclusion of STARS points. Most agreed that including STARS points would make it feel less

like a Skidmore specific plan, but that we can have the STARS points available separately to share as needed. For the resource column, we could consider distinctions such as low cost, medium cost, high cost, and staff capacity, using appropriate symbols. We will want to include financial savings and opportunities as well.

- h. Questions were raised about who this draft plan is for. We do not want to make it too complicated for a general audience.
 - i. There is general support for the primary metrics we are proposing for tracking. Some are new and more STARS specific, though most have carried forward from previous sustainability planning. It was noted that we are using 2024 as a baseline for renewable electricity as 2025 was an outlier. Energy use intensity is a newer metric and a best practice in energy management.
 - j. Comments on specific action included support for making a project list (as key student learning and development opportunities) and acknowledgement that some actions are really a commitment to discuss and consider something and some actions are implementation of specific projects and programs. The proposed planning recommendations and actions are all based on the assessment and informed discussion of what is feasible.
 - k. A sustainability training for employees is envisioned to be 15-20 minutes and would be relatively low cost. It would communicate what we have done, what we are doing, sustainability behaviors (especially as related to waste), and how to engage.
 - l. It was clarified that a living wage assessment and commitment is not needed to reach STARS gold, though it does have a very high value in the STARS framework. Approximately 85% of Skidmore employees receive a living wage based on the MIT Living Wage Calculator.
 - m. In terms of next steps and a review process, key Vice Presidents and the Cabinet as a whole will need to review and provide feedback before it is shared with the community (likely) and then IPPC. We would want to especially discuss financial considerations and budgeting implications with leadership. The majority of the actions are no to low cost in time and money with the higher cost actions (although not specific commitments) falling primarily in the climate and energy space.
 - n. We may want to list admissions as a partner in the plan and be sure to acknowledge the importance of this work for building/reinforcing our reputation and supporting recruitment and retention.
 - o. Committee members are comfortable with sharing with leadership/Cabinet with revisions to the draft and action timeline have been made, based on this committee meeting. Ideally, we would get input from the Cabinet in January, share with the community in February, and bring it to the IPPC in March.
2. Other business.
- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 9:00 - 9:55 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: Bruce Murray (guest)

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes
2. Office and institutional updates
3. Board of Trustees session on Foundation 5/Environmental Sustainability
4. Sustainability planning update
5. Other business

Agenda (with notes)

1. Approval of minutes
 - a. April, May, and September 2025 minutes were approved.
 - b. The FY25 notes will be aggregated and put on the website. An annual report for last year still needs to be developed.
2. Office and institutional updates
 - a. The Sustainability Office continues to develop staff and faculty engagement activities, including green office workshops, trainings, and a recognition program. Celia and a student intern are working with Facilities on a Recycle Right waste standardization and outreach campaign. Big Green Scream, complete with the bag monster, compost worm, and recycling activities, is coming up this weekend. There will also be a Climate Change Quilt event this week, in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office at Binghamton University, to raise awareness for climate action through collective quilting. The Sustainability Fair planning is in full swing with the fair taking place from 10 am – 2 pm on Saturday, April 11.
 - b. The third cycle of the SGA Green Grant is now awarding projects. There will be two awarded projects, one focused on pollinator awareness/education and the other will support the Squirrel's Nest food pantry on campus.
 - c. The LEED Silver certification for the McCaffery-Wagman Tennis and Wellness Center has been awarded! The CIS application is still being finalized and should be submitted soon. The CIS submission was originally three projects but has been combined into one and also got switched over to an updated version of LEED. The CIS project did not fall under the Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy

(SCRP), though we did pursue LEED certification. The Tennis and Wellness Center did fall under the original 2021 version of the SCRP.

- d. The JoTo first floor will be renovated to become the Community Commons. LEED points will be tracked as per the Sustainable Construction and Renovation Policy.
 - e. Electricity metering is in place for Tisch, JKB, and JoTo and we hope to have the res halls done soon. Res hall metering in particular will be used for student programs, energy competitions, and classes.
 - f. The Geo Trees project is progressing with a sculpture unveiling and community engagement event scheduled for April 24.
 - g. We are a partner in NYSERDA's Experience Clean Heat heat pump promotion program. Tang and Zankel are the specific Skidmore buildings that are participating and they now have heat pump signage. The staff and faculty focused heat pump workshop was offered in the Payne room at the Tang.
3. Board of Trustees session on Foundation 5/Environmental Sustainability
- a. Kurt, Dan, and Tarah will present to the board for a 1.5-hour session. The goal is to provide information and get strategic input on environmental sustainability.
 - b. The presentation will include highlights from last 10 years and an overview of key metrics. The STARS framework will be shared. Our recent 2025 STARS submission (silver rating) is being used as a baseline for planning and strengths and opportunities in each category will be shared.
 - c. Committee members asked about whether there is a funding goal or identified priority projects, if the board asks. It was clarified that the presentation and conversation is not about fundraising, but rather what should be the general priorities and strategic focus areas in the next sustainability plan.
 - d. Environmental sustainability has not been a main topic at recent board meetings, so there is likely to be varying levels of background knowledge on the topic.
 - e. Committee members made the comment that they have seen high engagement/interest around sustainability from alumni.
4. Sustainability planning update
- a. At this time, the Board of Trustees focus (Strategic Plan sessions) is the priority, thus sustainability planning conversations have been delayed. We do not have much specific feedback on the plan at this point, though it is clear that a Cabinet-level review of the plan is needed before going to IPPC. VP Konstalid and VP Taylor are taking the lead on overseeing the Foundation 5 BOT session and they are likely to be the leads as related to sustainability planning.
 - b. There is still a question about whether we will need direct community input, as well as recognition that there was a great deal of community input during the strategic planning process

- c. CSS work on the sustainability plan has been shared with IPCC leadership, though there is not a commitment that it will make it to the IPCC agenda this semester.
- d. There are different ways to potentially proceed with the action timeline and questions about whether it should be public facing or internal. Many committee members feel like sharing the action timeline with trustees is a good idea, as well as for the Cabinet. The inclusion of our assessment of resource needs provides useful context.
- e. Regarding, climate action, Skidmore has submitted an application for pro bono consulting from Second Nature energy industry partners. We became an affiliate member of the Climate Leadership Network in December 2025 in part to have access to funding and technical resources.
- f. Foundation 5 is labeled as environmental sustainability whereas STARS and our work thinks about it more holistically. However, Skidmore may want the sustainability plan to be more focused on environmental sustainability (even though STARS is broader). Given this environmental emphasis, we expect to remove the living wage conversation from the draft plan.
- g. We may want to add fundraising opportunities to the financial resources coding on the action timeline.

5. Other business

- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 9:00 -9:55 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Bruce Murray (guest), Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Absent: None.

Agenda

1. Office and institutional updates
2. Sustainability planning
3. Other business

Agenda (with notes)

1. Office and institutional updates
 - a. Successful recent past events include the Climate Change Quilt project and Big Green Scream. Coming up in Earth Month, there will be an Earth Day Sustainability Update zoom, Arbor Day, a North Woods tour, the Sustainability Fair, and the Geo Trees Unveiling/Beats 4 Beets combined event.
 - b. Give+Go planning is well underway with the move-out donation program running from April 28 - May 17. Volunteers are needed and sign-up communications will be coming soon.
2. Sustainability planning
 - a. On February 26, Dan, Kurt, and Tarah presented to the Board of Trustees on how Skidmore is approaching Foundation 5 as a part of the Strategic Plan sessions. The presentation included environmental sustainability highlights and areas of progress in the last decade and then shared an overview of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). It was conveyed that STARS is being used as Skidmore's primary organizing principle and strengths and opportunities in the four categories (Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning and Administration) were identified. The Board asked questions and provided thoughts as related to what the priorities should be given their oversight role. There was support for continuing to provide sustainability learning opportunities through campus as a living lab and courses and to consider sustainability and energy options in the planned residence hall improvements.
 - b. We are still hoping to bring the draft sustainability plan to the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC) this spring, potentially on April 15.

- c. Content and process feedback has been received and additional key stakeholders have been contacted. Aiming to send it to the Cabinet for review before it goes to IPPC.
- d. Most of the proposed academic and engagement actions have general support. Any consideration of a general education requirement for sustainability literacy would be advanced through the faculty. The timing of considering this may work out well given the need to reconsider the goals for student learning and development. There are some concerns around the idea of having a required sustainability training for staff. Even without full completion, getting even 50-70% of the campus to be educated on what Skidmore has done and trained on sustainable behaviors (especially waste sorting) could result in significant positive outcomes.
- e. Within the operations and climate-related action there may need to be some work in terms of framing decarbonization goals. We are looking at combining the idea of decarbonization assessment and climate action planning in to one effort/action.
- f. There are some questions about the food goals and a meeting will be held with key players to discuss.
- g. STARS Gold was identified as the goal based on working group conversations and the gap analysis potential points analysis. A simple snapshot showing how the actions correlate to STARS credits/points may be helpful. It is a 14% increase that is needed, with 75% of the point increase coming from education and engagement actions and 9% from operations actions.
- h. We will add/adjust language to address financial considerations and clarify how this all fits within overall institutional priorities and college finances.
- i. The small loan program has been removed.
- j. Direct community input will not be needed given the extensive work to collect input during the strategic planning process last year. That input informed Foundation 5 of the strategic plan and this draft sustainability plan is intended to be an implementation plan.

3. Other business

- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 9:00 - 9:55 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Jodi Frank, Liana Krasnoff, Bruce Murray (guest), Christine Page, Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair)

Absent: Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Carol Schnitzer, Kurt Smemo

Agenda

1. Office and Institutional Updates
2. Sustainability Planning and IPPC Items
3. 2025 GHG Inventory
4. Environmental Action Club Update
5. Other Business

Agenda (with notes)

1. Office and Institutional Updates
 - a. Please share with your departments and colleagues the call for volunteers for the Geo Trees Unveiling event occurring on Friday, April 24. In addition to unveiling the first geothermal sculpture, the primary goal is to have at least 102 volunteers to create the “human borefield” standing in the actual location of the bores below the ground. OCM will be there with their drone to get on overhead photo and video.
 - b. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Give+Go midweek and move-out day sorting. Please share this sign-up as well.
 - c. Skidmore was awarded a \$30,000 pro bono consulting opportunity from Second Nature to develop a renewable energy strategy, focusing on Scope 2 emission reductions and purchased electricity options including on-site solar, power purchase agreements, community solar, and green retail/electric supply contractual mechanisms. The assessment is a 4–8-week engagement covering renewable opportunities and financial analysis.
2. Sustainability Planning and IPPC Items
 - a. There has been some discussion of the draft sustainability plan at the Cabinet level with initial feedback shared by VP Dan Konstalid and VP Natalie Taylor. Revisions were made based on feedback and targeted outreach sharing the draft plan and asking for input was made to: 1) Amy Frappier, Chair of the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning, as related to academic and curricular actions. 2) Sarah Delaney Vero, VP for Human Resources, as related to training

and HR-tied actions, 3) Elizabeth Stauderman, VP for Communications and Marketing, and 4) Joshua Woodfork, VP of Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity.

- b. There has been some discussion of whether the goal should be to aim for STARS Gold for the next submission or to frame it more generally as an improvement in our STARS performance.
- c. Timeline for advancing the draft sustainability plan is uncertain.
- d. CSS membership restructure is under discussion—proposal to remove divisional representatives (Student Affairs, Admissions, Advancement) in favor of operational roles while maintaining faculty and student positions.

3. 2025 GHG Inventory

- a. Postponed to next meeting.

4. Environmental Action Club Update

- a. Liana provided an update of Environmental Action Club activities, including an overview of recent engagement with President Conner.
- b. EAC participates in a lot of on-campus activities and also aims to do some advocacy and tangible action each year, such as going to marches, protests, and lobbying days.
- c. To support campus sustainability efforts, EAC sent a letter to the President in 2023 calling on Skidmore to prioritize climate action and sustainability goals. This semester, EAC organized the writing of around 30-40 notecards, focused on decarbonization and environmental stewardship at the College, and posted these on the door of the President's suite. The President engaged with the students over email and had a meeting with the Club to hear their thoughts. During the discussion, EAC emphasized measurable tangible outcomes, accountability, student support for sustainability, renewable energy, and long-term resilience, while also acknowledging financial considerations. Other key ideas raised included enhancing communications, continuing the dialogue, and potentially establishing more regular engagement and conversation between students and the administration.
- d. Rachel offered that the Career Development Center would be happy to partner with EAC or others to develop a workshop or a panel focused on environmental and sustainability career pathways. They do have honorariums that they are able to offer to alumni to return to campus to engage with students.

5. Other Business

- a. None.

Campus Sustainability Subcommittee
MEETING NOTES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 9:00 - 9:55 am

Present: Madeline Bace, Rachel Chase, Celia Darling, Darren Drabek, Jodi Frank, Bruce Murray (guest), Dan Rodecker, Tarah Rowse (Chair), Kurt Smemo, Colson Warren (guest), Carol Schnitzer

Absent: Liana Krasnoff, Christine Page

Agenda

1. 2025 GHG Inventory (Presented by Sustainability Intern Colson Warren)
2. Sustainability Planning and IPPC Items
3. Other Business

Agenda (with notes)

Committee members were welcomed with a sustainability success story. The Geo Trees Unveiling on Friday, April 24 had amazing turnout (with over 100 volunteers present for the human borefield demonstration) and celebrated the installation of the first of five “geo tree” sculptures. The South District sculpture was installed next to the Community Garden with a short speech delivered for the unveiling. A photo of the human borefield taken by the drone was shared. Volunteers will soon receive a thank you email with overhead photo and additional means of sharing the project and geothermal information will be developed going forward. Four more sculptures (Dining, North District, Arts District, and Zankel) are planned for next year.

1. 2025 GHG Inventory (Presented by Sustainability Intern Colson Warren)
 - a. Skidmore completes a GHG inventory every three years. The current inventory is for fiscal year 2025 with the previous inventory covering fiscal year 2022. Observed changes between the 2022 and 2025 inventories are minimal. Total Scope 1 and 2 emissions (in Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent) were similar (8,477 MTCDE in 2022 and 8,088 MTCDE in 2025). A small shift in Scope 1 and 2 emissions was seen in that purchased electricity emissions (Scope 2) increased while on-campus stationary emissions (Scope 1) decreased.
 - b. Members asked questions about what FERA is and how commuting emissions were calculated. Fuel and energy-related activity (FERA) is the upstream emissions not already accounted for in Scope 1 or 2 (i.e. extraction, production, and transportation emissions) for all fuel and energy purchases. Commuting involves collecting addresses to determine miles travelled and making assumptions (based on previous surveys and informed guestimates) for number of trips (remote work factors in here) and modes of travel.

- c. Scope 1 emissions (primarily from natural gas) were 5,780 MTCDE in 2022 and 4,840 MTCDE in 2025. The reduction in total emissions did not correspond to heating degree days (HDD) and cooling degree days (CDD), a measure of how much energy is needed to heat or cool a building based on outside temperatures as compared to a baseline 65 degrees. [Added post meeting for context/specificity: There were more heating and cooling degree days in 2025 (5,413 HDD+CDD) than in 2022 (5,363 HDD+CDD).]
- d. We did not assess how the emissions tracks to building square footage from an efficiency perspective. This has been done in the past. There is approximately 275,000 square feet of additional new building space (CIS and MWTWC)), so a gross increase in energy consumption and emissions would be expected. New building space heats and cool with geothermal, so purchased electricity has correspondingly gone up.
- e. Skidmore uses the Climate Leadership Network (CLN) reporting framework which tracks and reports all Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions as well as commuting and directly financed air travel in Scope 3. We do not report emissions but follow the CLN approach as a best practice.
- f. One of Colson's key takeaways is that there has been a lot of positive sustainability change at Skidmore but there is room for more emission reductions progress and climate action.
- g. Nonadditional sequestration, carbon removal and storage that occurs naturally or as a standard land management practice, could be something interesting for a student to look for in the future, as related to our forest land holdings.

2. Sustainability Planning and IPPC Items

- a. The goal of the CSS committee for this year was to utilize STARS as a framework for sustainability planning and to develop a roadmap and proposed actions that would advance Foundation 5 goals. The plan was to bring the planning work forward to the Cabinet and IPPC. The Cabinet has had some discussion of the draft plan and we have received initial feedback from a few of the VPs. The draft plan will not be brought forward to IPPC this year.
- b. General feedback received is that STARS is a very comprehensive framework with perhaps too many opportunities. We might need to identify a few key high-level priority projects and allow divisions to identify other sustainability actions they wish to pursue.
- c. Given the short timeframe of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, we are still interested in having the planning work inform specific endorsed goals that the Skidmore community supports and collaboratively advances. Whether the work will take the form of a plan is unclear.

- d. Input from committee members included questions such as; whether we could simplify the plan into an executive summary to better and more simply distill the key goals and whether there are other frameworks (outside of STARS) that we could be considering.
- e. There is general agreement that STARS is a good framework as it is holistic and that it is important to continue to advocate for clarity in what we will do as an institution to meet our commitment to environmental sustainability.
- f. There is great appreciation for the extra time and effort that all committee members put into sustainability planning this year, especially in the fall semester. The working group conversations and proposed recommendations were well-informed, developed through consensus, and practical given perceived capacity and resource constraints.
- g. We still expect there to be more conversations about better aligning CSS membership with the current strategic plan by formally amending the membership in the IPPC Operating Code. Most membership positions will stay the same, including the student and faculty roles. The divisional representation currently coming from Advancement, Admission, and Student Affairs may change and/or be swapped with functional representation from operational and finance areas. Having a Communications representative may be considered as well.

3. Other Business

- a. A thank you was extended to departing members Christine, Madeline, and Liana for their contributions to the committee.
- b. Tarah will send outstanding CSS notes and annual reports for review and approval.