

Sustainable Finlandia Committee Year End Report, AY 2017-2018

Members: Bill Knoblauch (Chair), Carrie Flashpohler, Dylan Weiler

Initiatives

1. **Sustainable Finlandia Webpage**

The goal was to create an online resource so that the campus community could get questions about recycling answered; print and put up recycling signage if/when necessary; get access to community recycling information, such as electronics recycling, glass recycling, etc.; promote previous and ongoing initiatives on-campus (such as battery recycling); and provide links to community organizations such as the SKRC and the Bike Hancock Organizations. Dylan Weiler was instrumental in this effort. <http://www.finlandia.edu/academics/committees/sustainable-finlandia-committee/>

2. **Electronics Recycling Drive**

Bill attended a Copper Country Recycling Initiative at the community room of the MTU Lakeshore Center at 600 Lakeshore Drive, Houghton, Nov. 8 at 5:00pm. Steve Noble from the Sustainable Materials Management Unit of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality gave a talk. Bill took copious notes, but was dismayed to hear that although Mr. Noble's organization could provide matching funds, some considerable amount of money up front was required. However, Bill did

UPDATE: The community electronics recycling drive is going through, thanks to a collaboration with Michigan Tech and MDEQ. It takes place May 4th and 5th, and Bill Knoblauch has offered his office as a place for campus-based electronics be collected for recycling.

3. **Ryan Street Community Garden – Shed Removal**

Bill helped to demolish, physically and along with Mark Lounibos, a dilapidated shed behind the Ryan Street House. It was unsightly for campus, and thanks to football for organizing the team to help clean up the debris.

4. **Ryan Street House Community Project**

Bill and Carrie worked closely with Mandy Lounibos and Molly Cavaleri (at Michigan Tech) on a grant application aiming to repair, update, and utilize the Ryan St. House (adjacent to the Ryan St. Community Garden) for community events. This grant has been submitted, and we should know the results of all of our hard work by May 10th. Already, however, the house has a new roof, new front door, and is set for a bike rack for community use. Ideally, the grant money would mean that the house would be a place for community members to learn more about sustainability efforts, gardening, healthy food preparation techniques (canning), and a space for community members to interact with campus members in various disciplines (History, English, Art, etc.)

5. **AY 2018-2019 Goals:**

1. Focus on Recycling in the Dorms, but most specifically with the kitchen and cafeteria.
2. Paper / Book recycling drive with the Library and Rebecca
3. Emphasis on recycling both at our faculty meetings, and especially at our year end events such as graduation.