



North Coast Co-op
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes
May 17, 2016 – Co-op Community Kitchen, Arcata

EAC Members present:

Peggy Leviton, Melanie Bettenhausen, Dave Feral, Bo Boyanov, Alex Stillman and Kiya Villarreal (notetaker)

At 6:05pm Dave Feral welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order, and established the agenda.

Agenda Review: Discussion included:

The operational Sustainability Committee evolved into EAC after the 20 year sustainability plan was produced. Environmental portion of the mission of Sustainability Committee was missing, EAC works to cover the environmental interests of the Co-op.

Minutes: **Consensus reached to approve the April 19, 2016 minutes.**

Proposed policy for grab & go containers Discussion included: Key goals are to identify to-go options that are environmentally responsible, alternatives to disposables such as durables, and creating employee cooperation for these efforts. Two points, educational comparison and also vendor pressure.

Disposable grab & go: Operational policy needed for employees to consistently request most environmentally responsible containers from our vendors during every order.

- The regular 'ask' will pressure vendors to carry more environmentally responsible compostable containers.
- We do not want industrial-compostable we want simple home-compostable.
- Waxed-recyclables are not the most environmentally responsible; minimal compliance of proper disposal & food residue discouraging recycling.
- Industrial-compostable options are not feasible; lack of commercial compost machinery.

Educational promotions: necessary for durables such as glass or tin. Durables should be marketed comparatively to grab&go disposables (especially near honey and PB bulk)

- When considering educational options the **department heads, employees, and members** should be included in discussion. Collaborative method will create positive, lasting, and inclusive change.
- Operational policy will require 2017 fiscal year budget revisions, in line with **Strategic Plan**. Allocation of funds needed for marketing to create durables with co-op logos
- Funds needed for outside advisors such as Zero-waste Humboldt or other organizations to assist
 - Bi-annual report needed of container usage and waste. Forward waste-audit to Alicia Stafford.
 - Investigate various container options, outside research/see waste-audit

Car traffic reduction options. Discussion included:

Emily Sinkhorn of RCAA released request for proposal for feasibility of revised Eureka bus route.

- HTA will be the entity doing the work for expanding route. Work may begin in July and be completed in October.
- Melanie will contact HTA to express Co-op partnership interest.

Work at creating a bus stop closer to Arcata store and stop sign placement.

- Potential bus-stop location to be near the Arcata kiosk in parking lot
- Board recommendation for follow-up to previous request for stop sign installation with City of Arcata on I St. to increase safety in area near Arcata store. Melanie will forward previous letter.

continued...

Prioritize outstanding items Topic tabled for next meeting.

Agenda items for next meeting.

Continuance of Transportation discussion. Prioritize outstanding items from Charter.

Review: Next meeting will be June 21st at 5:30pm

Committee Recommendations:

The Committee would like the Board to recommend the following three proposals to the General Manager:

- 1) Operational policy for employee training for inquiring about options and price for all grab&go disposable packaging options including consumer-compostable.**
- 2) Operational policy for incentivized shopper purchase and use of glass or aluminum durables.**
- 3) A recommendation for 2017 fiscal year budget revision to allow the purchase of compostable containers and marketing funds for Co-op logo durable containers. Revisions should include the cost of an outside advisor, Zero-Waste Humboldt or other organizations.**

The Committee recommends for the Board:

- 1) Recommend that the Board inquire the staff for desire of bus stop in Arcata on I St. If approved, staff will inform the Board with feedback report.**
- 2) Recommend that the Board follow up with City of Arcata regarding the approval of stop sign installation on I St.**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33pm
Minutes by Kiya Villarreal