UA Sustainability Council Brief

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Office for Sustainability

April 14th, 2020

1 The UA Resiliency Center has a new website!

2 Julia Nall, Office for Sustainability intern, was elected ASG president

- 2.1 Congratulations Julia!
- 2.2 We will miss her, but she's absolutely the best person for the job
- 2.3 Julia will announce the new ASG Sustainability Chair on April 27th

3 COVID-19 Resources Map

- 3.1 Sophie Hill, ASG Sustainability Chair and OFS intern has developed a great resources map for those in need during COVID-19. It already has over 20,000 views which I'm not sure is a good or bad thing. Please distribute the NWA Resources Map if it's helpful to your team.

4 2020 Earth Day strategy during COVID-19

- 4.1 Most everything planned face-to-face/onsite has been overcome by COVID-19 impacts so we are adjusting virtually much like the rest of the campus
- 4.2 Social media campaign every day on actions people can take while at home
  - 4.2.1 This will include some prizes to be mailed to students
  - 4.2.2 There is also going to be a #trashtag campaign to encourage our community to go collect a bag of litter from their local area and tag @UAsustain to be entered in contest
- 4.3 We've asked the Chancellor's Office to assist with a 50th Anniversary Earth Day message.
- 4.4 The OFS is moving to a weekly email that provides:
  - 4.4.1 Tips for reducing your footprint while at home, book recommendations, podcast recommendations, video recommendations, and other quarantine related information. The first attempt at this went out Monday (yesterday). Hopefully you found it informative. Next week we will have a version of this every morning. We welcome more suggested content. We will try to only recommend e-books, videos, and podcasts that can be viewed without subscription.
  - 4.4.2 Reducing mental stress in these difficult days ahead---collaborative effort with PWHC/ASG to identify sources/telemedicine sites
  - 4.4.3 Leadership and Ethics/integrity reading list: TBD (Mike and Marty have some good ideas for this)
- 4.5 Other good ideas?

6 UA Renewable Energy Projects

6.1 Wind Energy RECs with SWEPCO

6.1.1 With OK and AR reaching settlements, this project will happen. It's now just a matter of how large it will be. If TX or LA doesn't approve the project size may be adjusted down accordingly. We feel good about LA. Bottom line is AR will have a sizable share of the wind project.

6.1.2 The University of Arkansas will have an opportunity to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from this project. The RECs can be used to offset emissions from electricity purchased (scope 2 emissions) from SWEPCO.

6.1.3 The RECs will be priced at a "market rate," which is relatively affordable.

6.2 The 5.4 MW DC Solar Services Agreement (SSA) with Entegrity has been pulled from the next Board of Trustees agenda (final disposition yet TBD)

6.2.1 The Arkansas Energy Office provided the UofA a review of the SSA on April 6th, 2020. Their Summary said:

"We have been impressed throughout this process with the extreme transparency with which Entegrity has conducted their affairs. These projects, were they to be executed, would generate savings of $8.5 million with no need for upfront capital and frankly are far and away the most cost-effective solar projects to be vetted by the AEO to this point. In many ways, we would consider well constructed SSAs to be a safer investment for our public clients than some of the hastily considered energy performance contracts our office has reviewed. All parties have worked diligently to overcome potential obstacles and deliver a final proposal that, in our opinion, would be a credit to the state. AEO is happy to fully support any efforts to proceed forward with large-scale renewable energy projects while reducing expenditures and would look forward to answering questions from any party."

-Chet Howland, AEO Financial Projects Manager

6.3 Entegrity has also put together a very similar Solar Services Agreement for the UA Division of Agriculture. This installation would be a little bit smaller at 4 MW DC.

6.3.1 This has been in front of the Board of Trustees a couple of times already, but it appears that they are going to give this another shot at approval. It's currently in legal review. Passing this SSA could set a valuable precedent.

6.3.2 The following is language directly from their BoT resolution.

6.3.2.1 The Division proposes to install arrays at three (3) locations: (1) at the farm in the area of the southeast corner of Drake and Garland A venue; (2) at the Feed Mill located in the southwest corner of the farm along Field Road; and (3) a fifteen (15) acre off-site location acquired by Entegrity.

6.3.2.2 Under the terms of the SSA, Entegrity will provide all capital costs, design, permitting, installation, operations and maintenance of the solar array and then provide energy as a service to the Division. The Division would agree to purchase from Entegrity the entire output of each array at a rate specified in the SSA.

6.3.2.3 The leases and SSA would run for a term, of 25 years. Entegrity will also guarantee annual minimum production of the array along with a guaranteed rate per kilowatt hour for the term of the agreement.

6.3.2.4 The projected first year energy savings is 127,300 dollars with an anticipated life of the agreement savings of over 3.2 million dollars. The SSA would provide the Division a purchase option.

6.4 There is interest in developing a future RFP for solar energy on a property that the UA owns in south Fayetteville. Hopefully more to come on that.

7 Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) #4

7.1 In March the UA Board of Trustees approved a $13 million dollar set of energy conservation measures for the UA Fayetteville campus.

7.1.1 These projects have a guaranteed avoided cost of energy which provides a payback period of 10 years.

7.1.2 Energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) allow public entities to procure energy savings and facility improvements with no up-front capital costs. An ESPC is a public-private partnership between an agency and an energy service company. In our case, the UA has partnered with Entegrity, through a competitive bid, to create these long-term energy savings for the campus. **These projects save our campus resources on operations and maintenance while reducing air emissions from electricity production.**

7.1.3 Since 2006, UAF has managed and implemented three ESPCs totaling over $50 million dollars.

7.1.4 The project will be funded with a combination of bank financing and utility conservation rebates.

7.1.5 The primary energy conservation measures in ESPC #4 are:

7.1.5.1 LED lighting

7.1.5.2 Building envelope improvements

7.1.5.3 HVAC equipment upgrades

7.1.5.4 Optimizing building performance with existing controls and equipment

7.1.6 This very important project has been developed and evaluated through hard work at UA Facilities Management, Financial Affairs, Business Affairs, and the Arkansas Energy Office.

8 Energy Conservation during COVID-19

8.1 During Christmas break last year campus demand averaged about 10,000 kW with a high of about 11,500 kW and low around 9,500 kW. This compares to an average, high, low of about 12,000 / 16,000 / 10,000 in the months that followed. Since the campus was put on temporary hiatus it looks like the average / high / low is somewhere around 9,500 / 11,000 / 8,000. So, we did hit multi-month lows in electric consumption as activity across campus diminished.

8.1.1 Most campus thermostats have been set to vacation settings

8.2 What could we be doing to reduce plug-load from departments with non-essential electronics still plugged in and turned on? We may be away until August.

8.2.1 Possibly a major (UASC/ASG/Staff Senate/Faculty Senate) collaborative effort with Campus Utilities to significantly but smartly reduce energy usage between May 1 and July 31? Further thoughts?