

Sierra Club Minutes 10/28

1. Oxholm Letter & Response (will be forwarded to all later)

1. Last week Kelsey, Chaitra & Megan wrote a letter to Vice President Oxholm about Sierra Club's concerns regarding Drexel's follow through on their promises. We asked Drexel to:
 - i. Commit in writing to their pledges made in the Princeton Review survey
 - ii. Sign the President Climate Commitment – very little variation from what they have pledged to do
 - iii. Certify all new buildings at LEED (we are concerned about the buildings currently being constructed)
2. In quite a few words we received a rather negative response (very summarized):
 - i. Avoided directly answering, but basically NO, Drexel already has done so much, no need to. They are also in process (no timeline) of hiring a consultant to analyze Drexel's efforts
 - ii. Drexel can never get carbon emissions to zero (many reasons) & will not sign
 - iii. Agreed to do LEED certified or comparable – instead will do LEED for Integrated Sciences building only & rest will get Green Globes certification, which is easier & cheaper, but comparable?
3. A discussion followed on what we thought of this response & what Sierra Club's next move should be
4. Concerns
 - i. Not the response we hoped for, we need to do something, but we DO NOT want to burn any bridges
 - ii. if they will not commit in writing, they may not be planning to follow through
 - iii. if they won't sign President's Climate Commitment and they do practically everything already or are planning to do, then why not sign? Maybe not really planning to do those things? (supposed sticking point is the Renewable Energy Credits: Drexel already buys 12%, but needs 15%)
 - iv. Is Green Globes certification truly comparable to LEED Silver? (according Smart House director – Green Globes is a laughable standard – but need to know more)
 - v. These buildings will be around 50+ yrs so will have significant impact for ours & Drexel's future
5. Excellent Points made
 - i. Marketing & publicity is extremely important to Drexel so we need to use this to spin our arguments – Devin
 - ii. Drexel may be keeping buildings green, just not spending extra money on LEED certification – must compare buildings to see if there is a difference – look at Drexel's Master Plan
 - iii. We need to know more about Green Globes certification

- iv. Try to be involved in the search for a consultant
 - v. This is the point of Drexel Green, but have to consider that there is nothing proposed yet: do we have time to wait if buildings are going up now & will the administration take the suggestions of Drexel Green?
6. Sierra Club's Plan of action
- i. Find out what specifically they do not like in Presidents Climate Commitment & reword if necessary to sign (does not have to be this documents) Or have them write their own – just want it in writing
 - ii. Research from multiple sources the comparability between LEED & Green Globes
 - iii. Compare building plans for Green Globe buildings with LEED ones to see if similar efficiency & “green” elements (possibly just saving money on LEED certification, but sticking to original plan)
 - iv. If little/no difference between Green Globes & LEED certifications & building plans then we will drop the issue, but if not:
 - v. Get as much written support from many sources (Professor Esty (Convocation speaker), professors, Drexel Green building committee, Smart House, industry professionals, etc) explaining differences & take it from there

7. REMEMBER:

- i. We DO NOT want to burn bridges so do not directly email any administrator about this
- ii. Try to put positive spin on concerns: ie we have Drexel's interest at heart regarding their public image if they do not follow through, etc
- iii. We cannot just shut up about this, Sierra Club didn't shut up & now we have Drexel Green...

2. Happier Note: Camping Trip!

- 1. Sat Nov 8, 1 night, leave 11-12ish, return 4ish Sun, 45 min drive to French Creek Campground
- 2. It is FREE, all food will be taken care of
- 3. 20 spots, first come first serve
- 4. We are carpooling, drivers will be reimbursed for gas
- 5. Need tents & sleeping bag, if you need tents/gear contact Steve ASAP (or let us know)
- 6. Look for the facebook event & if you want to come let us know ASAP! (especially if you can drive) – limited spots
- 7. Also open to bring a friend if you want

3. Fairmount Park Clean up – Saturday Nov 1

- 1. Annual park clean up with Circle K & community
- 2. Meet at Creese at 9am (until afternoon) for transportation

3. Free t-shirts & pizza

4. Come join everyone for active greening of our community!

4. Announcement: Bottle Drive

1. Steve is planning to do a reusable bottle drive this spring

i. Selling SIGG/clean canteen/nalgene waterbottles to cut back on wasted plastic

ii. If you are interested in helping contact him: saw65@drexel.edu

5. T-shirts:

1. We will be ordering t-shirts in the next week or so

2. They are dark blue with Drexel University Sierra Club & a tree of words in green on the front.

3. Organic cotton (obviously)

4. Let us know if you are interested

6. There will not be a Night Ride on Wed Oct 29