



Minutes of SPARC spring meeting June 5, 202, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., hybrid

Welcome and introductions

Recap of 2024-25 SPARC activities:

- Teaching Week 2024: “PCC Learning Gardens and You! Connecting Classes Across the Curriculum to Our Campus Gardens- Learning Gardens”
- Lunch and Learn sessions
 - Fall - “Can I Recycle This?”, City of Portland
 - Winter - Frank Granshaw “COP29 and Beyond - Climate Action in the Wake of November 2024”
- Anderson Conference 2025: “Climate justice across the curriculum: Resources and funding for YOUR classes”
- [Climate Justice Week](#)
 - PCC participated for the first time in the International Climate & Justice Education Week, April 7 -13, with events online, in classrooms, and on all four campuses. Programming included presentations on Climate Change 101, Pacific Islanders, climate justice in PCC’s Climate Action Plan, and the CEI Hub; restorative programming including an online session addressing climate grief and a forest walk; and workshops with Multnomah County’s environmental justice staff and three PCC classes.
- WOHESC
 - 17 faculty members as well as many PCC staff members and students attended the excellent Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability conference on the Sylvania Campus this March.
- Sustainability Focus Awards
 - 18 students received the award, maybe the most ever!
- SPARC [Sustainability Curriculum Repository](#)
 - Please share relevant assignments to add to this repository
- Offered Curriculum Mini Grants

- But no takers. Other groups including CBL and Internationalization reported low engagement with curriculum grants this year
- Support for AASHE 2025 attendance
 - Remaining funds in the SPARC FY 25 budget will pre-pay expenses for two SPARC members to attend that national AASHE conference, Oct. 2025

Planning for 2025-26:

- C-Justice cohort has opened up [registration for non-STEM folks](#) (Taryn)
- Climate Action Plan revision and opportunities for collaboration. From Briar:
 - “For folks interested in helping with pre-planning efforts for the Climate Action Plan update this summer, please [fill out this form](#).”
 - We will be updating the college's Climate Action Plan beginning in fall 2025. We do expect this to take a full year, similar to our process in 2020. Here are some additional details.
 - As signatories of the Second Nature Presidents' Climate Commitment, we are required to have an active Climate Action Plan and update the plan at regular intervals. We will begin updating our current 2021 Climate Action Plan in fall of 2026. The update will once again be coordinated by the Sustainability Office with content developed by the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee. The steering committee includes the Sustainability Leadership Council as well as representation from other key college stakeholders, community organizations and students and utilizes the college's Climate Action Equity Guide as well as an in depth stakeholder engagement process (listening sessions, survey, class visits etc.). Once we have the main goals and strategies drafted, it will be presented to college leadership (Cabinet or PLC depending on Dr. Benning's preference) for approval. Afterwards we typically present to the Board of Directors though they have not been required to sign off in the past.”
- Teaching Week [proposals](#) due July 13
 - Discussed having a session focused on CBL/community engagement focused on updating the Climate Action Plan
 - Likely participants: Steph, Taryn, Hannah, Peter, Roberta
 - Examples of projects: local story telling around climate impacts; icons/images designed by graphic art students; other art projects; getting feedback on climate justice workshops
 - Roberta will start a draft GoogleDoc to start the planning and circulate
- SPARC activities to continue in the next academic year:
 - Lunch and Learn sessions
 - Climate Justice Week

- Perhaps Earth Week can become Earth Month, and Climate Justice Week can be part of this.
- Should engage community partners such as APANO
- We can pick the week that is most convenient for us; no need to align with the international week.
- Curriculum Mini Grants
 - Collaborate with CBL to provide extra support for community engagement projects focused on sustainability.
 - Connect mini grants with workshops providing content to provide a starting place for curriculum development
- Professional development
 - Support conference attendance – WOHESC 2026 in Seattle
 - Faculty training - provide workshops with a focus on developing curriculum