

Environmental Affairs Committee End of Year Report 2021-2022

Submitted April 9th, 2022

Submitted by:

Blaine Smallwood, 2021-2022 Committee Chair

Members:

Morgan Sprehe, 2021-2022 Committee Chair (Resigned)

Sara Klamm, Voting Senator

Krishna Chebolu, Voting Senator

Trevor Carey, Incoming Senator

Vela Lightle, Associate Senator

Projects:

● Sustainability Week

- Sustainability Week happens in October. In collaboration with ECO, we showed a movie about the conflict between oil companies in the Canadian Tar Fields and an Indegionos territory in that area. The tribe was lobbying to make the oil companies stop polluting their water sources and land.
- Environmental Affairs tabled to sign a petition to stop Pipeline 3. Our table had three QR codes, one with the petition, one with extra information, and one with a script for emailing/ letter writing.
- The Sustainability Festival was on the Friday of Sustainability Week. We tabled on the Quad with the rest of the environmental groups. Our table had sustainability information, silverware, cups, and stickers.
- Next semester, Sustainability Week is going to turn into Sustainability Month. With the extra time, we can coordinate bringing speakers, showing multiple movies/documentaries, and hosting a long-term project.

● Campus Cups

- Trevor Carey mainly handled this. We ordered at least 250 menstrual cups (that's at least how many we handed out) to hand out on campus to greatly lower waste. This is arguably the biggest project we worked on this year because it benefits our student body, is environmentally beneficial, and has a lot of visibility.
- We are still giving out our extra menstrual at other events, so this is a huge hit. We should keep an idea like this in mind for future projects.

● Truman Environmental Coalition

- Sara Klamm organized this. The idea was to create a group for all the environmental organizations to be involved with so that we can collaborate on common goals and interests.
- The plan is to keep this going in the fall.

- **Sustainability Talks**
 - This is a project that Krishna Chebolu was in charge of. He worked with Dan Waxman from ResLife to host talks/discussions about different sustainability efforts for students to participate in.
 - These talks are supposed to start in April and will hopefully continue next school year.
- **ENVS Major Program**
 - This project was started by Blaine Smallwood when he was an Associate Senator on the Environmental Affairs Committee during the 2021 Spring semester. Blaine has been collaborating with the Sustainability Office and the Environmental Studies Minor Committee.
 - Dr. Drew Seig from the Biology Department has been the one creating the materials for the major. He is planning on creating an Environmental Science Major and Minor, along with keeping the Environmental Studies Minor, since they are inherently two different things.
 - The timeline on this is that the major should be official by the start of the Fall 2023 semester. A rough draft of the curriculum has been created, so that just needs to be finalized. Then the program just needs to pass through the administrative and state levels.
- **Earth Week**
 - Earth Week is very similar to Sustainability Week. This year we showed Wall-E in the planetarium. Wall-E is a great movie to show because it talks about environmental topics while being entertaining.
 - We also had a table at the Earth Day Festival (Earth Fest). We handed out our normal items of stickers, silverware, cups, ect.
 - Idea for next are to bring in a speaker/musician, have a project (such as a highway or creek cleanup), and have new things to hand out at the table.

Individual Reports

- **Blaine Smallwood**
 - Blaine was appointed as committee chair in early March 2022 after the resignation of Morgan Sprehe.
 - Blaine served as the representative on Environmental Studies Minor Committee.
 - Blaine's main focus this year was working on the creation of the Environmental Science Major, which has made great progress. He plans on seeing this finished during the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Morgan Sprehe**
 - Morgan served as the committee chair for the majority of the year before resigning.

- Morgan did a fantastic job at coordinating, facilitating, and creating new ideas/projects.
- **Sara Klamm**
 - Sara worked for a long time on creating the Truman State Environmental Coalition, which finally started this semester. Hopefully she can be one of the people leading this organization next year.
 - Sara provided a connection to the Student Climate Union, which we can hopefully use for collaboration on common interests.
- **Krishna Chebolu**
 - Krishna's main project this year was working with Dan Waxman on hosting environmental talks in the dorms.
 - These were scheduled to start in April of 2022 and will hopefully continue during the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Trevor Carey**
 - Trevor was the one who coordinated most things having to do with the Campus Cups. They did a great job at organizing a project that benefited a lot of different people.
 - Trevor was always eager to help with any project or event throughout the year, and their work was greatly appreciated.
- **Vela Lightle**
 - Vela was one of the representatives who served on ESFAC.
 - She researched and proposed many of the great ideas that were on the ESFAC slate that was presented and voted on by the general body.

Future Projects/Ideas

- **ENVS Major**
 - Blaine plans on seeing this finished withing the upcoming year
- **Sustainability Month**
 - Bringing in speakers
 - A project that can be done in a month
- **Monthly Volunteer Event**
 - Like a highway or creek cleanup
 - Can be done in collaboration with other groups
- **Light Pollution**
 - Provide covers for the lights on Truman's campus to lower light pollution

