



**North Coast Co-op  
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes  
December 13, 2017– Ten Pin Building Mezzanine, Arcata**

**Board Members present:** Leah Stamper (chair), Colin Fiske, Cheri Strong, Mary Ella Anderson

**Member-Employees present:** Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal

**Members present:** Hanna Johnston

**1. Welcomes and Review**

At 6:51pm the meeting was called to order by committee chair Leah Stamper and introductions were made.

**2. Approve Minutes**

Consensus reached to approve the November 2017 minutes.

**3. RePower Humboldt**

Colin - RePower Humboldt offers a variety of energy source options including 100% renewables. Opting for 100% renewable power would cost the Co-op 1 cent more per kwh. One way to justify going with 100% renewable energy would be to find ways to cut our energy use, offsetting the increased cost.

Kiya – There have been a lot of light bulbs switched out for more energy efficient ones at the Eureka store recently. Once all the bulbs are switched the Co-op could be saving 50% of current lighting energy costs). If we could get the trash picked up one less time a month at both stores we could save an additional \$300-\$400/month.

ACTION: Kiya will look into the extra cost of going 100% renewables and the cost of updating the solar panel systems.

Kiya – I've been focusing on educational and operational changes this year, such as increasing composting and recycling. In 2018 I will focus more on internal energy sustainability actions, such as RePower Humboldt.

**4. Ingredients in the Deli**

Leah – upset about new hot bar items with “natural beef,” instead of grass-fed, being served.

The group would like to know why the deli is not using more local ingredients.

Why doesn't the deli work cooperatively with the produce department?

**5. Incentives to Use Reusables – reported by Kiya**

- A durable tracker button is needed to collect data on how many reusables are currently being used before the remodel starts.
- Kiya feels there is already a good plan in place for incentivizing reusables, it just needs implementation.
- Forkless fall was not as successful as Strawless Summer but it did get higher employee participation which is great. Bringing your own cups has a higher popularity than bringing your own utensils currently.
- The more familiar our shoppers become with these programs the more participation there will be.

**6. Sustainability coordinator update**

- Working on updating outreach materials for the recycling bins in front of the stores.
- It was suggested to have a box at the end of the recycling bins with no hole for durables.
- Zero waste day with the City of Arcata went well in November and the Co-op received great video coverage from the Lost Coast Outpost.

**7. Other Incentives** – Reported by Colin

- Is there a way to incentivize people to bike/walk/bus/carpool?
- We want data/survey of our shoppers.
- Kiya suggests having HSU students do the survey
- How much are people buying in relation to their transportation?
- Can a transportation survey be put into SMS system?

Colin recommends the board direct staff to collect information about random sample of customers about how they are getting to the store and how much they are spending on those trips with a date determined by the board.

ACTION: Emily will ask Melanie to invite Jason to the January EAC board meeting.

**8. New business**

- Invite Travis to talk about cooling systems and new PG&E rebate opportunities.

**9. Discuss agenda items for next meeting:**

- RePower Humboldt (Travis)

**10. Review:** Next meeting will be January 10, 6:45-8pm.

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| <p><b>Recommendations for the Board:</b> Direct staff to collect information from a random sample of customers about how they are getting to the stores and how much they are spending on those trips – completion date to be determined by the board.</p> |
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Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm

*Minutes by Emily Walter*