



The **UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA**
Environmental Concerns Committee

Agenda

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

3:00 PM CDT May 2nd, 2022

Zoom Link:

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/95896852288?pwd=bFExdFM1LzFYUXB6QkdCSWpFWjVhQT09>

Meeting ID: 958 9685 2288

Passcode: 25372370

Call To Order

A meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee was held via Zoom on May 2nd, 2022. It began at 3:05 PM and was presided by Scott Green, the Environmental Concerns Committee Chair.

Attendees

Voting Members: Scott Greene and Heather McCarthy

Non-voting Members: Dot Flowers, Anna Boals, Mack Boylson, Sarah Ballew, Cian Brown, Randall Kolar, and Aanahita Ervin

Agenda Items

I. Distribution of ECC Environmental Stewardship Awards

- i. Student Group – Green Week
- ii. Individual – Greg Brezinski, Refuse and Recycling Supervisor
- iii. Department – School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science

II. Program Presentation – Styro-Home (Anna Boals, University of Oklahoma Student)

- A presentation on the Styro-Home program was provided by Anna Boals. See below for key highlights from the presentation:
 - o Styrofoam is a widely used material as it is inexpensive, lightweight, strong and water resistant. Distribution of the material is inexpensive, and it aids to minimize shipping costs.
 - o Several environmental and human health concerns relate to the manufacture and use of Styrofoam
 - Manufacturing the material releases over 50 byproducts, including a likely carcinogen. The process is also a large source of water pollution in the U.S.
 - Non-recyclable in current form.
 - Estimated to account for 30% of landfill space
 - o Styro-Home was created to assist with the United Lutheran Church's effort to collect and

recycling Styrofoam materials. The church has a portable Styrofoam densifier to transform Styrofoam into a condensed material capable of being recycled. As of September 2021, 2,000 pounds of Styrofoam have been collected and processed for recycling.

- Portable Polystyrene Densifying Foam Machine:
 - Expensive.
 - Machines not manufactured for large scale use.
 - Foam must be clean and sorted prior to densifying.
 - Densified logs are heavy and have many purposes.
 - Densified foam can be resold in bulk to plastic manufacturers and reused in manufacturing.
- About Styro-Home:
 - Registered Student Organization - a great way for students to get involved on campus.
 - Structured to allow for internship opportunity.
 - Clean campus - we advocate for a foam-free campus.
 - Awareness - Most people are unaware of the severity of the harms done by Styrofoam.
- How to Recycle Styrofoam:
 - RINSE THOROUGHLY.
 - Ensure liner is intact.
 - Stack neatly.
- The Styro-station drop off location is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 914 Elm Ave.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.