

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 13, 2022**

4:00 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. Hubelbank, Mr. Charles, Ms. Dyer, Ms. Gorra, Ms. Gil-Rodgers, Ms. Matteo, Mr. Hagenbuch
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ms. Payne, Ms. Rowe
Staff:	Mr. Buell, Ms. Gorra
OTHERS:	Mr. Becker, Ms. Warburg, Ms. Clauson, Mr. Genovese

4:02

Regular Meeting

Mr. Hubelbank stated that Ms. Armstrong had resigned from the Sustainability Committee. Discussion ensued regarding potential members for the now vacant position on the Committee.

Review and Approval of minutes

Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes for the March 9, 2022 meeting. He went on to inform the Committee that on the third page, second paragraph of the document it states that the Town of Washington is presently a member of M.I.R. Mr. Hubelbank indicated that this was incorrect. He explained that Washington is a member of B.R.R.F.O.C. "Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee."

Updates from last meeting:

- **Transfer Station**

After indicating that the minutes should be amended, Mr. Hubelbank stated that the town was presently considering the possibility of joining H.R.R.A. opposed to B.R.R.F.O.C. He indicated that the cost of changing to H.R.R.A. would be greater but that H.R.R.A. offers a plethora of services presently not offered by B.R.R.F.O.C.

Following this, Mr. Hubelbank indicated that the town was still attempting to purchase the land upon which the transfer station now exists. Discussion ensued.

- **Communications/Website/Presentations**
- **WashingtonCT.org**

Mr. Hubelbank stated that the town is presently working to improve the town website and indicated that the Committee should consider ways that the Sustainability Committee section of this website may be improved.

- **Earth day/WEC 50th Anniversary**

Ms. Gil-Rodgers informed the Committee that the Washington Environmental Council will be setting up a historical display on Earth Day at the Judy Black Memorial park to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary. She went on to explain that several seniors from Shepaug Valley High School would be in attendance with presentations related to their senior projects. Mr. Hagenbuch asked if a shredder would be brought to town hall for document disposal. Mr. Hagenbuch was informed that this service had not been scheduled. Mr. Hubbelbank indicated that he would speak with Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, to see if this service could be arranged. Discussion regarding the event ensued. Mr. Hagenbuch informed the Committee that he would be speaking at the Gunn Memorial Library immediately after the event, and invited the Committee to attend.

- **Resiliency Workshop**

Mr. Hubelbank informed the Committee that the resiliency workshop report had been completed. Discussion ensued.

- **Farming**

Ms. Dyer informed the Committee that the "Right to Farm" ordinance had passed in Litchfield. She explained that she would provide more information on this at a later time and that she would like to plan another meeting for the farmers alliance within Washington.

Discussion on building to Net Zero/Sustainability

- **Peter Becker, Head of School, Frederick Gunn School, will talk about the Gunn School's efforts to build to Net Zero**

Mr. Hubelbank thanked Mr. Becker, Head of the Frederick Gunn School, for attending the meeting and asked that he explain to the Committee how the school had gone about designing the Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship so that it would be net zero.

Mr. Becker indicated that Ms. Warburg and Ms. Clauson from the architectural firm Sasaki were in attendance. He explained that they are experts in the field of sustainable building design and that Sasaki had designed the Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship. Following this introduction, Ms. Warburg and Ms. Clauson then shared a presentation with the Committee. During this presentation, they indicated that Zero Energy, Wellness and Fitness, and Zero Carbon were the major focus of their efforts to construct sustainable building projects like the Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship. *This presentation is included with the minutes.*

- **Committee discussion on a definition of building to Net Zero**

Following the presentation, Mr. Charles asked what the HERS rating of the Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship was, and was informed by Mr. Becker that Ms. Warburg and Ms. Clauson would not have this information. Mr. Hubelbank asked if Sasaki had experience in applying these practices to an entire town. Ms. Warburg indicated that ecodistricts.org may be a helpful resource regarding this. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Hubelbank asked how Sasaki had found working within Washington to create a net zero building. Mr. Becker indicated that lot coverage regulations had been a major hurdle for the project. Discussion ensued.

Other Business to come before the Committee

Mr. Hubelbank noted that he had put forth a motion to amend the minutes for the March 9, 2022 meeting but that the Committee had not voted on this motion. The Committee then voted to accept the amended minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the March 9, 2022 meeting with the correction so noted by Mr. Hubelbank, seconded by Ms. Matteo.

Passed unanimously.

No new business was addressed by the Committee.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. by Ms. Matteo, seconded by Ms. Gil-Rodgers. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Sustainability Committee Clerk
4-18-2022



THE FREDERICK GUNN SCHOOL

Analysis Presentation

Friday Feb 11



SASAKI

Sustainability





300 People

Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects, Sustainability Planners, Civil Engineers

Multidisciplinary



Planning and
Urban Design

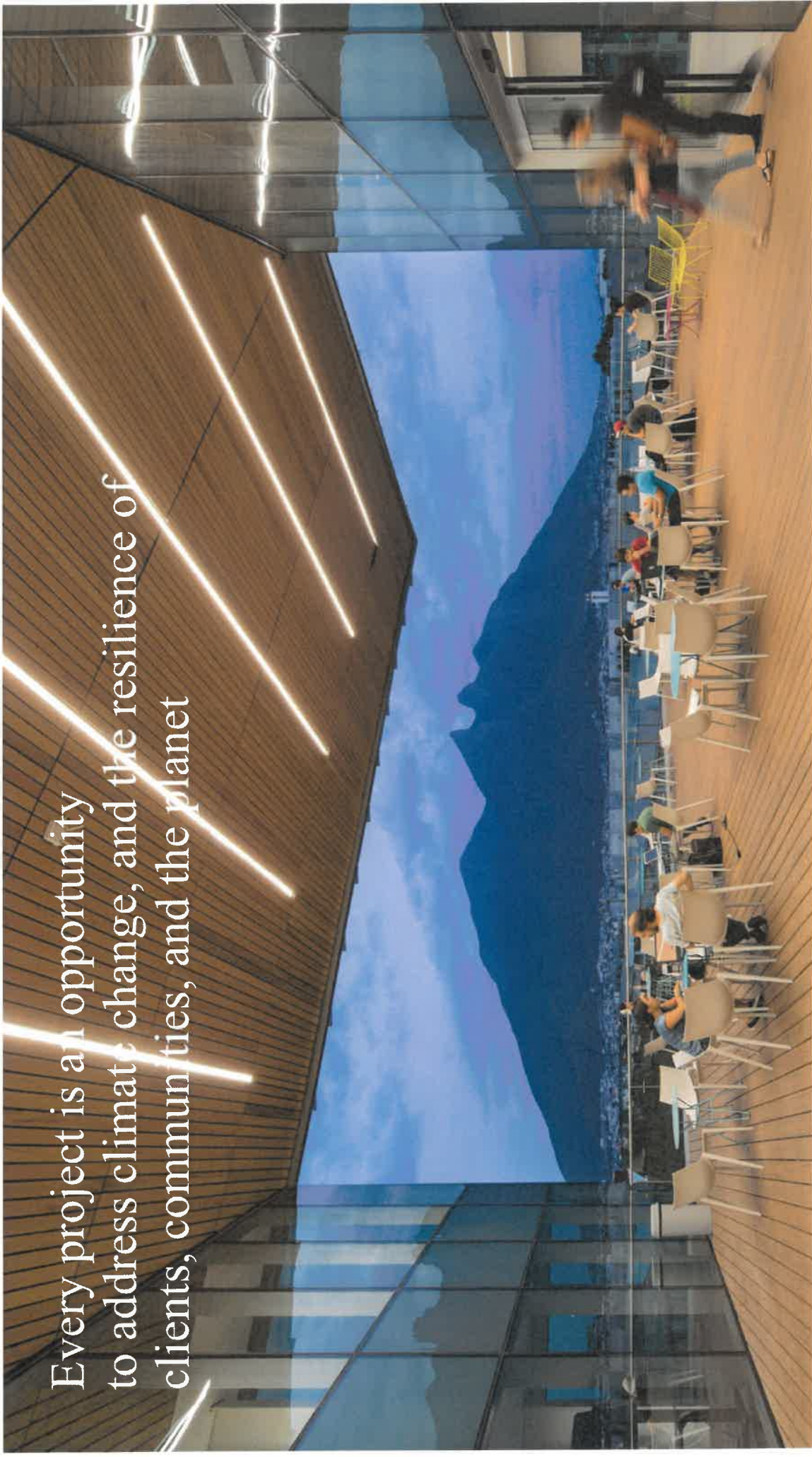


Architecture and Interior
Design



Landscape
Architecture

Every project is an opportunity
to address climate change, and the resilience of
clients, communities, and the planet



Design for Climate

Salud Digna



Zero Energy



Bristol Health Sciences Center

WELL, Fitwel



Akamai Headquarters

Zero Carbon



Harvard University Artlab

DeCarbonization Planning

Carbon neutrality by 2035
100% renewable energy

How can the campus grow
while eliminating GHGs?



Reduce energy use by 50%



All electric systems
Maximize onsite renewables



Reduce embodied carbon

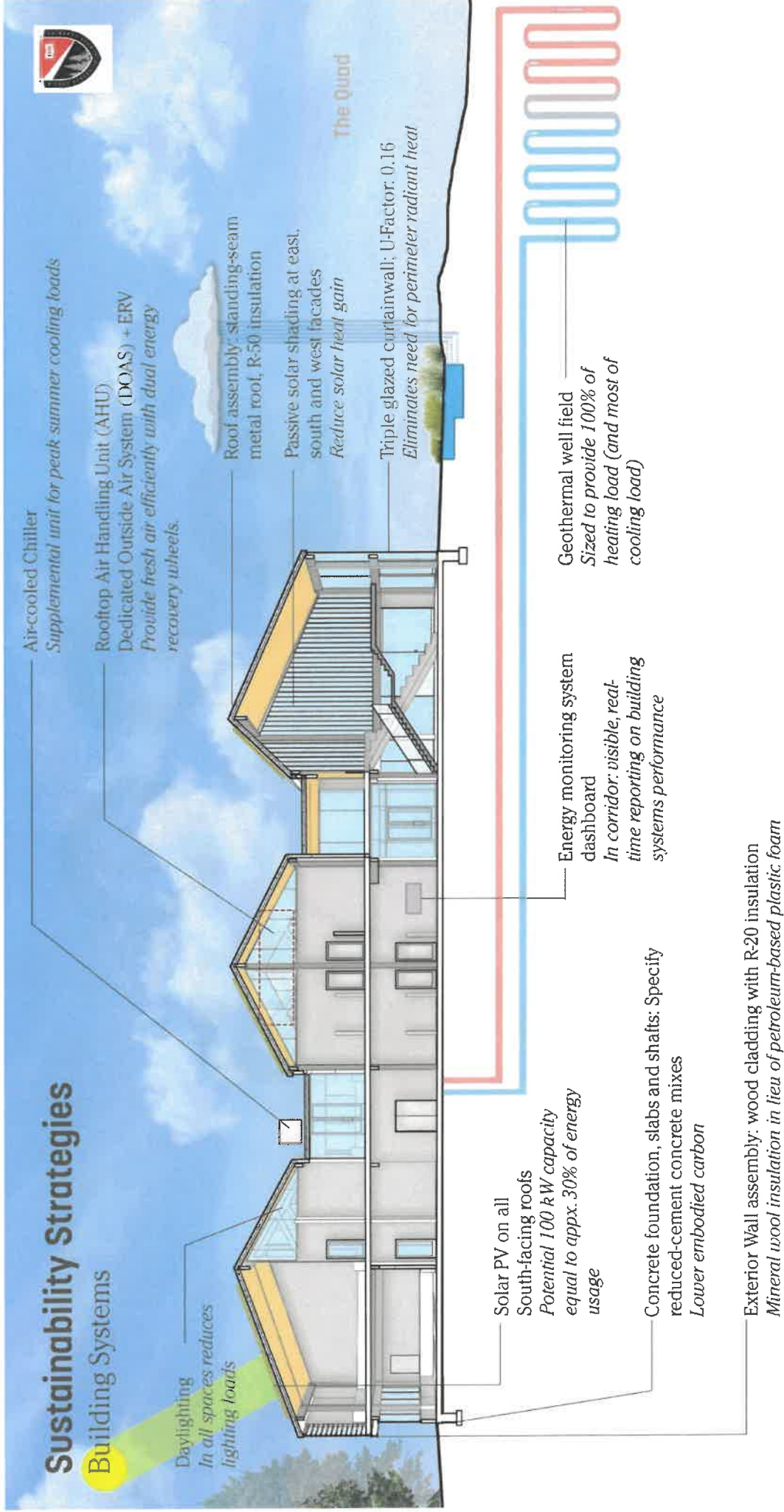


Resilience planning to protect
critical infrastructure



Sustainability Strategies

Building Systems





SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

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Carbon/Energy

- Install individual meters to track energy use on a building-by-building basis.
- Complete an energy audit to identify least energy efficient buildings.
- Electrification of grounds maintenance equipment.
- **Increase** the tree canopy throughout the campus environment to sequester carbon.
- **Address** least energy efficient buildings through retro-commissioning renovations.
- When designing new structures, incorporate passive design strategies to reduce energy demand, such as siting buildings in optimal orientations relative to the sun, wind, and shade.
- Buy or rent solar for existing buildings.
- Aim for new construction buildings to be net zero.
- Convert existing buildings to heat pumps.

Near Term

Long Term



SASAKI

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

Water

- Require low flow fixtures.
- Designate low-mow and no-mow areas to reduce the lawn area on campus to reduce the number of acres requiring irrigation.
- Convert grass to turf fields.
- Consider sustainable and native landscape planting.
- Harvest rainwater in cisterns throughout the campus, in particular at individual buildings.
- Introduce bioswales or 'green fingers' to encourage the conveyance, infiltration/treatment, and detention of stormwater.
- Reduce the area associated with surface parking.
- Where possible –and in parking lots in particular –employ permeable pavers to absorb rain and surface runoff.

Near Term

Long Term



SASAKI

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

13

Ecology

- Introduce meadow landscapes throughout campus.
- Develop a diverse plant palette, including native and indigenous plants, to increase the biodiversity and resilience of the landscape and reduce water use.
- Restore stream beds to address erosion and ecological health, and to better leverage stream corridors for recreation and leisure.

Mobility

- Electrify FGS' fleet of service vehicles.
- Distribute EV charging stations throughout parking lots.
- Concentrate parking in parking structures.

Near Term

Long Term



SASAKI

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

Health and Wellness

- Invest in non-vehicular mobility facilities, including pedestrian pathways, biking, and wayfinding.
- Increase the quantity and quality of outdoor spaces including outdoor classrooms and outdoor gathering areas.
- Require health product declaration standards for building materials.
- Consider co-location of mental and physical health services.
- Improve athletics and recreation facilities.
- Maximize natural light in facilities to achieve both wellness and sustainability benefits.
- Improve air quality by increasing ventilation and filtration standards for both existing and new facilities, including the use of operable windows with integrated sensors.

Near Term

Long Term



SASAKI

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

Operations

- Prepare a climate action plan.
- Create a free-store to informally recycle goods.
- Partner with a food provider that values and sources food locally.
- Establish a single stream program for recycling.
- Consider instituting a composting program.

Education

- Make sustainability features visible on campus, e.g. bioswales.
- Distribute interpretive signs throughout the campus highlighting sustainability features, e.g. bioswales, meadows, building and landscape materials, etc.
- Incorporate campus sustainability features into the curriculum, employing the physical environment in applied learning opportunities.

Near Term

Long Term



SASAKI

Sustainability Metrics

