Summary of the meeting of the Campus Ecology Group 4/17/2008

Bob Turner updated the group on plans for hiring a Sustainability Coordinator: the position has been approved but details still need to be worked out; the Environmental Council is pushing to have someone in place for the fall semester and to have the job description include working with student groups and student-generated ideas.

Other updates:
- More Trees Please has to be delayed since trees haven’t arrived yet
- Tap water initiative: they made buttons and had a table in the Coop with a petition
- Fair trade study break is planned
- Light switch stickers have been obtained
- Green bikes: they have $2500 of the funding and are waiting to hear from Res Life about more, to buy 12 more bikes to expand the fleet. Locks etc are already in place.
- Organic dinner next Thursday 6:15 at the Edge, maybe with speaker; info will be shared during dinner, entertainment during dessert.
- Walk up the hill day on Tuesday (SEA), maybe with refreshments.

Members of the group shared ideas for things the sustainability coordinator should look into:
- efficiency of buildings e.g. Leeds certification
- make sure coordinator is aware of this year’s Green Summit initiatives and where they stand. Summit planning will be a problem since everyone on the host team is either graduating or going abroad.
- Colgate is planning a study about parking & transportation—make sure the coordinator is working with the outside firm on that.
- Recycling: Ian Helfant is arranging for a test run of new containers.
- Environmental education for first years—there will be a 45-minute slot in orientation next fall.
- Coordinator should run the Campus Ecology Group.
- Students should continue to be the planners and host crew of the Green Summit. Maybe coordinator will oversee things, either individually or as head of CEG.
- Make sure we look at coordinators at other schools for information to help convince Dean Roelofs that connecting with students should be part of the coordinator’s job.
- Give the coordinator Gavin Leighton’s outline for how CEG could work.
- The issue of whether “sustainability” changes the focus of campus ecology group was raised; no consensus that it would.

Other ideas for next year:
- Try to influence next year’s senior gift?

The group celebrated the fact that the bookstore is selling environmentally friendly t-shirts before adjourning for the academic year.