3/11/22

**INTERVIEW WITH**: SSLC iWG representative: Maria Maring, and colleague Gabriel Kosmacher

Experience with the many different student sustainability RSOs on campus

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

On 3/11/22, the team met with SSLC representatives from the iWG, Maria Maring and Gabriel Kosmacher. They had beneficial insight into the human side of energy implementation on campus. They both have experience in allocating SSLC funds to student proposed projects, so it was interesting to hear their point of view of sustainability projects on campus. They recommended energy conservation techniques that do not rely on individual actions. They also provided insight into the fact that students just want to see clean energy on campus, and they do not care how it happens. Finally, they expressed concerns on the location of micro nuclear reactors on campus, while also stressing that students would not be against nuclear power if they are educated on the topic.

**DETAILED INTERVIEW NOTES:**

**Questions:**

1. By working with many student organizations, what do you feel the student body wants to see included in a clean energy plan?
   1. They just want to see something happen, don't really care how it is done
2. Do you think there will be push back on the use of micro nuclear reactors on campus?
   1. Don't think so, a lot of students are happy to see something happening
   2. Importance of where it will be on campus
3. What do you believe will be the most important technology in energy transition?
   1. Energy conservation that does not place the responsibility on the individual was mentioned
4. Moving forward, would you recommend any people within your team that we could also contact/meet to gain more information?
   1. Potentially more contacts within different student organizations, Solar Decathlon is the most technical organization
5. (Closing question) As this project develops, we may have more questions as the scope becomes more consolidated; is it okay if we can keep connected? What would be a preferred method of communication (email, zoom, teams, etc.)?
   1. Yes, and they would like to hear how our plan ends up

**General Notes:**

* Maria- Senior in ESE, very involved in campus sustainability groups
* Gabe- Junior in Math + CS
* Maria- concerns about nuclear effects on the community, environmental justice, location of the reactors
* Green energy for MTD. Currently building a hydrogen plant that is solar powered Hydrogen powered buses. Program is run by MTD
  + <https://mtd.org/inside/mtd-pulse/mtd-unveils-zero-emission-fleet-technology-october-14-2021/>
* Gabe and Maria *speculate* that there would not be a social attitude that would be against nuclear
  + Above or below ground? “Unless it’s on campus, it’ll be in a working-class area, which would not be favored by the public”
* SSC has about ~$1.4 million
* Gave money for solar farm and CIF (requested by ISEE/F&S- lines blurred)
* Holding polluters accountable is more important than encouraging individual students to conserve
* Place more pressure on specific departments
* ISEE- research oriented, not immediate impacts
* 2nd nature- climate commitment and carbon commitment
* Divestment by FY25, university not participating in fossil fuel investments