Energy Generation, Purchasing, & Distribution SWATeam meeting notes

2/16/2016

* Working on Proposal: Allow longer contracts for purchasing electricity
	+ Current Illinois law prohibits purchasing of contracts more than 10 years for coal, fuel oil, and natural gas.
		- Interpreted to include electricity, even though not explicitly stated
		- Law dates from at least 1921
			* Might not even have been possible to purchase electricity contracts at the time
	+ Longer contracts would allow for better prices on wind PPA’s
		- But by how much? Morgan might know
* Biomass consultation group first meeting on Friday at noon
	+ Will allow to bring together knowledge on campus
	+ Some biomass projects include
		- Dedicated biomass firing at Abbott
		- Co-Firing with coal at Abbott
			* Woodchip study has been done
			* Sometimes GMO crops destroyed at Abbott
			* Miscanthus has not been burned
				+ How much would this change emissions?
		- Algae
			* Small footprint
			* Research ongoing at Illinois Sustainable technology center
			* Small greenhouse on Curtis
			* Typically a liquid fuel replacement
			* Similar to solar in that it uses sunlight
* Potential Proposal: all buildings should have solar panels
	+ - Easiest to do when buildings are new
			* Can be designed for more easily
		- Separate proposal for existing buildings
		- Some obstacles might exist
			* Potential increased maintenance
			* Potential architectural objections