

At the Sustainability Council meeting on March 6, 2017, we discussed three iCAP Working Group recommendations. A synopsis of the recommendation, our discussion, and the action items is presented below.

### EGen005 Rooftop Solar Standard

- iWG recommendation:
  - “Rooftop solar should be included in the Facility Standards, with guidance developed by F&S staff, in order to maximize the effectiveness of solar installations. This should apply to new construction, major renovations, and roof improvement projects. Project scopes should include rooftop solar, as applicable, based on the guidance to be developed according to roof orientation, nearby shading, potential solar capacity, and roof construction type (e.g., gypsum would be an inappropriate roof decking for retrofitting with solar PVs). Exceptions should require a variance during the capital design review process.”
  
- The Council indicated support for a higher-impact installation, such as an expansion of the Solar Farm on south campus, rather than requiring rooftop solar on all new construction and major renovations.
  
- Next steps:
  - F&S can develop guidance in the Facility Standards regarding rooftop solar installations, but not make it a requirement.
  - Rooftop solar installations will remain departmental responsibility for maintenance.
  - The Campus Master Plan should incorporate an expansion of the Solar Farm to meet the FY20 iCAP goal of 12,500 MWh/year and the FY25 iCAP goal of 25,000 MWh/year of on-campus solar. This will require approximately 50 more acres.

### EGen003 Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Timeline

- iWG recommendation:
  - “We understand that the University is currently advocating for state legislative relief from a number of procurement-related restrictions, and we recommend that the University include in this effort a request to eliminate the 10-year limit on Power Purchase Agreements. If successful, this would allow (but not require) our campus and Prairieland Energy, Inc. to enter into long-term Power Purchase Agreements for renewable energy (including electricity and other renewable

fuels) which may offer more favorable terms, perhaps even being less expensive than traditional energy options.”

- The Council discussed the trend toward lower costs for renewable energy technology.
  
- Next steps:
  - When the next RFP for a clean energy PPA is planned, seek campus / system approval to request pricing for both a 10 year agreement and a 20 year agreement, through Prairieland Energy, Inc.

### ECons003 Conservation Budget

- iWG recommendation:
  - “Strategic investment in energy conservation, including recommissioning and preventive maintenance, offers the campus a unique opportunity to achieve long-term savings in utility costs while also advancing the objectives of the Illinois Climate Action Plan. In contrast, failure to invest in conservation, while it may appear to offer short-term financial savings, will only lead to higher future utility costs; this is analogous to “eating the seed corn.” Campus efforts have already led to \$8M/year savings.”
  
- The Council indicated support for continued investment in energy conservation, through the protection of the utilities budget. Discussion also ensued regarding an innovative investment strategy for internal funds to achieve rapid return on investment through energy conservation projects.
  
- Next steps:
  - First, protect the Utilities Budget from FY18 budget cuts to allow continued investment in energy conservation at the central campus level.
  - After the FY18 budget process is past for this coming year, Interim Provost Wilkin recommended discussing the innovative investment concept with Paul Ellinger, Vicky Gress, and Mathew Tomaszewski. Dr. Wilkin also recommended talking with the UI Foundation and contacts in the College of Business.

Additionally, the Student Sustainability Committee Chair recommended further investments in the Revolving Loan Fund.

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