

# iCAP Working Group

Jan 2025 Meeting

**Date:** Jan 21, 2025

**Time:** 11am-12pm CST

**Location:** [Teams](#)

**Attendees:** Jennifer Fraterrigo, Morgan White, Miriam Keep, Rob Roman, Carl Bernacchi, Sandy Yoo, Jamie Singson, Brad Klein, Natalie Reed, Jack Liong

1. Continue review of Zero Waste objectives
  - a. Organic waste data came from a [2014 feasibility study](#) for an anaerobic digester
    - i. Organic waste includes manure, which is not included in landfilled waste.
    - ii. Animal headcount data shows some fluctuations
    - iii. Sandy: do we know what explains the fluctuations in the numbers?
      1. Jen: Decisions made at Animal Sciences, not sure what drives these.
      2. Unclear if these are partial year data. Not clear yet if there is a trend that indicates whether we will continue to have same level of manure waste into the future.
      3. Yard waste amount based on visual estimate from Grounds
      4. We have more data on food waste now compared to 2015. The 2015 study did not include food waste from individual buildings.
        - a. [Waste characterization study](#)
  - b. 5.5 develop a comprehensive zero waste messaging campaign
    - i. Newsletter frequency would be quarterly or semesterly
      1. Morgan: similar newsletter for biking, it is semesterly.
      2. Jame: wonder if we should include communication channels used by Robin Kaler's group.
        - a. Jen: this has been challenging, but worth continuing to pursue.
    - ii. Morgan: would there be any sensitivities around a zero waste mascot?

1. Brad: if it is unrelated to campus mascot, I don't think this would be an issue. No one would complain about a hungry recycling can.
- c. 5.6 build out green cleaning program
  - i. This is linked to certification programs like WELL buildings
  - ii. Sandy: Silver LEED certification now required, looking into sustainability policy with higher LEED levels. This is coming from the board. When we know it's a big project, we request at least Gold.
  - iii. Rob: are you looking at how this would affect building systems, or just cleaning programs?
  - iv. Sandy: it is the project as a whole.
  - v. Rob: Lots of LEED requirements that are counter-productive in the district energy systems in which we operate.
  - vi. Rob: have seen projects come with major utilities costs down the road. Important to consider from multiple perspectives – resiliency includes financial resiliency.
  - vii. Sandy: challenging to deal with multiple scenarios, dealing with a hundred year building comes with unique challenges etc.
  - viii. Rob: asking for more discussion before requiring higher LEED levels.
  - ix. Sandy: President wants us to push boundaries of sustainability, not fall behind. We recognize it comes at higher costs.
  - x. Morgan: important to understand we want to make the whole campus more sustainable, not just go building by building.
  - xi. Sandy: the certification is for buildings, but recognize the need to also look at campus as whole. It is one layer.
  - xii. Want to follow up on this conversation, its relevance for another iCAP team.
- d. Zero Waste iCAP team also working on a plastic waste reduction meeting.
2. Review of Education iCAP objectives
  - a. Expand sustainability course offerings in academic units with fewer sustainability-related offerings
  - b. Regularly assess student literacy to evaluate sustainability learning outcomes
    - i. First survey launched in Fall 2024 to incoming students, working on getting a survey distributed to seniors to see how attitudes and behaviors change during students' experience on campus
  - c. Create a community of practice around sustainability education to disseminate best practices and provide resources

- i. Important to tie this into existing CITL efforts
  - ii. Brad: there is an IGET group that meets regularly and disseminates information among faculty, maybe we can share information with them.
  - iii. Jen and Miriam have worked with classes on plastic waste reduction, water safety testing, with positive student engagement. Want to explore how students can get more involved in other kinds of campus-focused projects.
- 3. Still need to circle back to question on setting Energy target. Will review Engagement and Land & Water objectives in future meetings.