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Revised iCAP Section 4.7 Purchasing/Waste/Recycling

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**Purchasing/Waste/Recycling**

The first iCAP recognized that reducing campus purchases (especially of products with low recycled content) and decreasing landfilled waste would cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve use of land and natural resources, educate students on sustainable practices, and contribute to other environmental benefits. UIUC committed, and must continue to commit, to reducing the environmental impacts from the products and services it purchases and discards -- when its vendors produce and extract natural resources, process and transport them, and collect and dispose of the waste. The first iCAP acknowledged that this area requires campus units to engage in a “whole system” approach to resource management.

While there have been several positive initiatives in this area, overall the relevant iCAP targets and strategies have not been effectively implemented.

On several measures of purchases and waste, UIUC has been performing worse than in the iCAP baseline year (2008) – such as more total waste and landfill, and lower weight of recycled commodities. Recycling on campus is unorganized and plagued with gaps -- lacking accountability and incentives for campus units, providing inadequate recycling bins, and landfilling many recyclable commodities (types of plastic, glass, food and electronics). Despite campus policy statements, purchasing has not implemented environmental standards and preferences; for example, campus units continue to procure office paper with mostly zero recycled content.

In targets and strategies for purchasing, waste and recycling, this iCAP attempts to refocus campus attention and strengthen efforts to reduce emissions and other environmental harms.

Instead of a single landfill diversion target for all waste, this iCAP targets specific measurements by product category of recycling and other reuse as well as reduced purchases. Also, instead of asking for adoption of a policy statement for Zero Waste purchasing, this iCAP targets actual implementation in purchases reflecting certified environmental standards and preferences.

As for strategies, several of the first iCAP’s strategies in this area have not been, and are unlikely to be, implemented at UIUC. The revised iCAP emphasizes waste-related measurements, accountability, incentive programs, communications and systems analysis for campus units and students. Additionally, the new strategies highlight weaknesses that have become obvious in recycling bins and collections, purchasing systems, and other waste-related operations. The strategies guide the campus to utilize State of Illinois and other contracts which reflect environmental standards, and to apply sustainable purchasing tools and certifications.

**Purchasing/Waste/Recycling Targets and Strategies**

*Targets*

1. Reduce purchases, waste, and landfill; increase recycling and other reuse
   1. By July 31, 2020
      1. Divert 90 percent of all waste (including agricultural and landscaping) from landfill
      2. Recycle or reuse 75 percent of: commodity waste by category (paper, cardboard, all plastics, glass, metals); food waste; electronics; and construction/demolition debris
      3. Reduce purchases of office paper and selected other products by 15 percent (compared to 2014)
   2. By July 31, 2025
      1. Recycle or reuse 90 percent of: commodity waste by category; food waste; electronics; and construction/demolition debris
      2. Reduce purchases of office paper and selected other products by 30 percent
2. Apply environmental standards and preferences to reduce the emissions from purchases, including office paper with at least 30 percent recycled content, Green Seal cleaning products, EPEAT Silver or Energy Star electronics, and SmartWay freight/package delivery services (or comparable certifications).

*Strategies*

1. Measure the performance by campus units (such as specific building, department and auxiliary) on purchasing, waste, landfill, recycling of specific commodities, and other reuse
2. Develop accountability, training and incentive programs for waste reduction by campus units and students; raise awareness of waste reduction goals through events and communications
3. Apply systems analysis in selecting actions to minimize emissions from purchasing, waste and recycling
4. Increase use of recycling bins by increasing number and locations, expanding the recycled products (including all plastics, glass, food waste, electronics and Nitrile gloves), and implementing uniform signage
5. Increase sorting of recyclables from combined waste at waste sorting station
6. Revise the iBUY and other purchasing systems to curtail purchases of products and services which fail to satisfy selected certified environmental standards and preferences
7. Utilize purchasing contracts which apply certified environmental standards and preferences, including contracts available for State of Illinois agencies and collectives of universities
8. Apply sustainable purchasing tools and standards provided by the U.S. General Services Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State of Illinois Central Management Services, and other certifying organizations
9. Engage campus units and vendors to reduce purchases and associated emissions
10. Expand reuse of durable products on campus through cataloguing system