

SWATeam Recommendation

Name of SWATeam: Purchasing, Waste and Recycling

SWATeam Chair: Bart Bartels

Date Submitted to iSEE: 03/30/2015

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

We recommend that campus buildings add adequate recycling stations and make efforts to avoid having isolated landfill bins.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

Recycling stations have been identified in surveys as “difficult to locate”. This is especially true of areas with bins for waste and paper recycling, but not for plastic bottles and cans. At the same time, having isolated waste bins in the area enables the incorrect behavior of throwing recyclables away because other options are not immediately available. We recommend changing the ratio of waste to recycling bins in a building to better represent the materials in the waste stream of that building. Materials coming from office buildings usually are 2/3 recyclable and the available recycling bins should be proportionate.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

Adding recycling stations and removing isolated landfill bins connects with Purchasing/Waste/Recycling Goal 5 of the iCAP which states, “Identify opportunities for an increase in reuse and recycling of materials”. As previously mentioned, not being able to find recycling stations was identified in surveys as a barrier to increasing recycling rates.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

In setting up new recycling stations there may be resistance or statements to the effect of, “There is not enough space for a recycling station”. There might also be resistance to having a waste bin removed because it will cause some to walk further. Changing the process will also need support in working with the BSW’s and providing information about the new stations to all occupants.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high):

Facilities & Services is the suggested unit for implementation although the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center could also assist. The budget level is considered low because many of the isolated waste bins could be repurposed for recycling stations. Some bins may have to be purchased.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

Team Member Name	Team Member’s Comments
Elizabeth Shancer	I agree with the proposal’s potential to add or consider repurposing bins that are “removed”.
Warren Lavey	Brilliant
Dilip Chhajed	Excellent idea

Olivia Webb	Agree; bin removal is acceptable if full recycling station is nearby. Remove isolated small bins in the meeting/class rooms.
Bart Bartels	Approve - Surveys have indicated the proportion of recycling bins are not adequate to the proportion of recyclable material. Also, isolated trash bins enable unwanted habits to continue.

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

It is suggested that this recommendation be considered with two other submissions – one for standardized bin signage, and the other for a recycling coordinator. The PWR SWATeam believes these three recommendations are all required components to optimize the campus recycling program.

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):