

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):

Hire a Zero Waste Coordinator to communicate and implement waste reduction strategies, to meet the commitments of the iCAP.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

The iCAP includes a commitment to implementing a Zero Waste campus policy. The problem is that there isn't a current job description that provides the scope to cover all of campus. The person in the position needs to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the campus waste stream – from the sorting process at the Waste Transfer Station to the daily routine of the BSWs, from the OBFS purchasing policies to construction & demolition practices. There needs to be communication and coordination amongst all campus entities to minimize waste in a systematic way, and at the moment that is not anyone's responsibility.

In the last year, several activities have been done in an effort to reduce waste. Zero Waste sporting events, participation in Recyclemania, and e-waste collections have been done. But each project was done in isolation, without a long-term plan to build on successes and change the culture over time. A Zero Waste Coordinator would provide stability to the initiative and a consistent vision to move the university towards its iCAP goals.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

Adding recycling stations and removing isolated landfill bins connects with Purchasing/Waste/Recycling Strategy 5 of the 2010 iCAP which states, "Identify opportunities for an increase in reuse and recycling of materials".

Hiring a Zero Waste Coordinator is PWR Objective number 8 of the 2015 iCAP. As mentioned above, Zero Waste sporting events, participation in Recyclemania, and e-waste collections have taken place as independent projects. The Zero Waste Coordinator would provide the stability to make incremental improvements toward long-term goals.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

The biggest perceived challenge of implementing this recommendation will be funding. Given current funding constraints, it will be difficult for any single unit to fund this position. For that reason this position may need multiple units to collaborate across departments to create the position, but our hierarchical culture could present a barrier in doing so.

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 it could also be placed in ISEE, ISTC, or even DIA. If this position is shared, time allocation would most likely, but not necessarily, be divided by each department's financial contributions, meaning the department that provides the greatest contribution would house the position.

The budget level is considered medium because the position would most likely be full-time and include benefits.

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

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Bart Bartels	I approve of this recommendation as written. Campus needs a champion to implement waste reduction strategies.
Olivia Webb	Waste is a huge part of sustainability and we could do so much more if we coordinate our efforts. This is necessary for a functional waste policy.
Dilip Chhajad	To implement the recommendations of this and other teams, we need a person with that charge.
Warren Lavey	Yes. In addition to the challenge of funding, this position requires authority to make changes and implement campus policies.
Elizabeth Shancer	I approve of this coordination position as it is vital to seeing quicker and more in sync progress across campus.

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 adequate recycling stations. 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):

Please see the attached Waste Characterization Study that was performed on four campus buildings in early 2014.