

2019 PWR SWATeam Recommendation #1

Name of SWATeam: PWR & ECBS

SWATeam Chair: Dr. Timothy D. Stark

Date Submitted to iSEE: May 1, 2019

Title: Sustainability Training in cooperation with the University Ethics and Compliance Office

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

- The PWR SWATeam, in conjunction with the ECBS SWATeam, kindly requests that iSEE work with the UI Ethics Office to prepare videos and/or information for sustainability training for UIUC students, staff, and faculty.
- In the case of university employees who do their mandatory annual ethics training, optional additional short videos at the end of the mandatory annual training is one possibility for increasing sustainability awareness.
- We suggest multiple avenues for exposing students to appropriate videos including showing them in Residence Halls, freshman orientation classes, e.g., LAS 101, ACES 101, etc., and sporting events would also reach a large student audience. These videos would be designed to be effective and revealing, e.g., showing a video of the daily waste generated on campus at the UIUC waste transfer station being one of many options to increase student awareness of the magnitude of the campus waste problem.
- The project would likely be achieved through the efforts of a graduate student, perhaps reporting to the Zero-Waste Coordinator and interacting with the PWR SWATeam.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

A consensus was reached that to fulfill our responsibilities as PWR SWATeam members, and for the iCAP objectives to be reached, sustainability outreach to the UIUC community needs to increase.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

The connections to iCAP goals are abundant. Given the focus of the PWR SWATeam, we would like this initiative to include a focus on sustainable purchases and recycling education. One part of this is informing the campus community of the need to avoid contaminating recyclables. For example, placing a half full cup of coffee or other liquid in a recycling bin prevents the entire contents of the bin from being recycled because of contamination. In addition, the UIUC does not and cannot sort recycled objects so people must place the proper items in the proper bins in the proper condition (no contamination) for recycling to occur.

There are many other areas associated with waste reduction to consider; for example, other SWATeams and iSEE may wish to propose materials for inclusion in this initiative, such as energy usage and conservation, e.g., turning off lights and closing windows and doors.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

It may be difficult to disseminate the materials once they are prepared. This will be mitigated by developing a “plan of action” for the information developed, such as including on display monitoring in residence halls.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

Office of Ethics & Compliance; iSEE

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

Budget Impact: Low to medium

Policy Impact: Medium

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

| Team Member Name | Team Member's Comments |
|------------------|---|
| Timothy D. Stark | I think this is an excellent recommendation. |
| Robert McKim | I agree with Tim. |
| Macie Sinn | I agree with Robert and Tim. I think the education component is extremely important for the entire campus. |
| Aaron Finder | I definitely think education is key; seeing this [waste recycling & processing] first-hand allows you to see the effects. |
| Maddy Liberman | This is a great recommendation. Sustainability education is vital to achieving a zero waste campus and it will provide opportunities to increase campus sustainability overall. |
| Neal Shannon | <i>Not available for comment.</i> |
| Sowmiya Raju | I think this would be one of the most important recommendations because we are getting the entire campus to work on this instead of just the SWATeam. |

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

None

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

This recommendation has been developed in consultation with Donna McNeely, Executive Director of University Ethics and Compliance, University Ethics and Compliance Office, and in consultation with members of other SWATteams. It arises in part from our shared sense that the annual ethics training that focuses on important matters such as whistle blowing, combatting sexual harassment, honesty, etc, could be expanded to include exposure to ethical issues pertaining to sustainability and waste reduction. Through our discussions we came to the conclusion that we should aim for something much broader and designed to reach the entire university community. It is appropriate to collaborate on this initiative with the University Ethics and Compliance Office as part of the function of that office to ensure compliance with university commitments – such as those stated in the iCap documents.