**Zero Waste SWATeam**

Attendees: Tim Stark (Chair), Robert McKim (Faculty), Leon Liebenberg (Faculty), Bernarda Calla (Faculty), Aaron Finder (Purchasing), Shantanu Pai (ZW Coordinator), Madalyn Liberman (Student), Manying Zhang (Student), and Julija Sakutyte (clerk)  
Date: 3/6/20  
Time: 3:30-4:30PM

Agenda

1. Updates
   1. Finder, Sustainability Catering (America To Go)
   2. M. Liberman and R. McKim Student Sustainability Ambassadors
2. March Recommendations Selection

Meeting

1. A. Finder Sustainability Catering (America To Go)
   1. Catering and “Drop-off” meals now uploaded to iBUY for departments to order.
      1. Once infrastructure is stable, building the sustainable options will follow.
         1. Sustainable ordering criteria are in development.
      2. Purchasing is open to input on what sustainable measures would be pursued.
         1. SWATeam is encouraged to participate on solidifying sustainability criteria to implement.
            1. May is the ideal recommendation date.
            2. T. Stark will head the development of this recommendation and S. Pai will assist.
            3. Potential Ideas:

Substitution for aluminum foil.

Foil on top and bottom of takeout containers (particularly pizza boxes) to eliminate contamination and allow for recycling of tinfoil and cardboard.

* + 1. Will reduce budget expenditure for UIUC by simplifying operations and procedures.
    2. Every order will have to go through this system, whether through direct ordering or invoicing.
       1. The system is independent of Purchasing, so any orders do not have to go through them.
       2. Sustainable options would not be enforceable like the system is, but it can be highly encouraged and widely accessible.
  1. Currently, 20-30 vendors are signed up.

1. M. Liberman and R. McKim Student Sustainability Ambassadors.
   1. See Previous Notes on iCAP portal [here](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/zero-waste-swateam-student-sustainability-coordinators) and [here](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/zero-waste-swateam-meeting-7-february-2020).
   2. Discussed Recommendation Draft
   3. Ambassador recruitment occurs via volunteer outreach (through office of Volunteer Programs) and students in environmentally forward areas.
   4. Draft Syllabus covers various topics, such as energy and water usage, as well as meeting various building managers before receiving their assignments.
   5. Class structure spreads classes to a one-year program (two semesters) in which students would work with building managers as soon as three weeks in.
      1. Should there be more preparatory work? Perhaps there should be multiple sessions before receiving building assignments in order to prepare students to interact with building occupants as well as preparing building managers to take on student ambassadors.
   6. S. Pai is compiling a master list of building managers, which he will share with Zero Waste once completed.
      1. Building Managers are departmental/building staff, who are assigned as the building managers. BSW’s (Building Service Workers) are not building managers.
2. Anaerobic Digester
   1. Team is prepared to support the Energy SWATeam recommendation.
   2. Vote will be virtually submitted by team members.
   3. **David Rivera-Kohl has informed J. Sakutyte that the anaerobic digester recommendation will be an Energy SWATeam pursuit only; therefore, vote is canceled.**
3. Aluminum recycling
   1. Aluminum replacement of plastic in vending machines is beneficial, even if looking at the input costs of aluminum compared to plastic.
      1. Plastic recycling: one cent per pound of plastic.
      2. UI system does not currently look at system wide GHG reduction.
         1. Could be a potential recommendation.
   2. T. Stark will head this recommendation and S. Pai will assist.
      1. The implementation of this recommendation can assist in Purchasing negotiation/review process when pursuing sustainable efforts.
      2. A. Finder will reach out to vendors to understand current efforts with other universities.
4. March Recommendations Selection
   1. Sustainability Criteria in America To Go (T. Stark & S. Pai)
   2. Aluminum Vending Machine Conversion (T. Stark & S. Pai)
   3. Student Sustainability Ambassadors (M. Liberman & R. McKim)
5. Future Ideas:
   1. Plastic Bag Recycling (Student Input Session Feedback)
      1. Is the university near banning plastic bags in general?
         1. There is no known effort to ban plastic bags on campus.
         2. Campus units using orange bags: Union/Quad Shop/Illini Bookstore
            1. Unlimited use of those bags for events
            2. Advertised as recyclable and reusable; how efficient is that?
         3. The recommendation would feature a replacement of plastic with paper or reusable bags.
            1. Reusable bags can create more waste because they are not reusing the bags.
            2. Additionally, a loyalty program could be started to have a deposit for a reusable bag which they can bring back to be used by another person.
            3. Plastic bag tax/fine (Aggressive tax of a dollar or so).
   2. Elimination of single-use plastics from food service providers, where plastics are defined to be any polymer or monomer made out of fossil fuels (which includes styro-foam, or expanded polystyrene).
   3. Glass Recycling (Student Input Session feedback).
   4. Solar Panels (Student Input Session feedback).
   5. Sustainable utensils and dishes (Student Input Session feedback).
6. F&S has ordered more of the three bin sets for campus.
   1. Krannert, as a private institution, is able to maintain their current trash bin setup.