Zero Waste SWATeam Meeting

Date: 12/18/2020

Time: 4PM-5PM

Attendees: Meredith Moore (iSEE), Tim Stark (Co-chair & Faculty), Shantanu Pai (Staff), Caitlin Aylmer (Staff), Leah Courtney (Student), Julija Sakutyte (Clerk)

Agenda

Cassidy Steel: Adopt-a-Highway/SWATeam Cleanup Program

* Not in attendance. No update.

Cassidy Steel: Composting Program Partnership with Urban Canopy

* Not in attendance. No update.

(Optional) Cassidy Steel: Environmental RSOs

* Not in attendance. No Update.

Maddy Liberman: Additional Scope for Grind2Energy (Residence Hall Composting)

* This project will be worked through within the Zero Waste Report through the other two Zero Waste SWATeam student members.
  + Hoping to gain understanding of the possibility to implement such a plan through the generation of this report.

Maddy Liberman: NERC project

* ML will draft a recommendation for the university to join the lower level of the program.
  + Could develop into a future objective to achieve higher ranking.
* Already achieved the requirements, so it would serve as a measure of recognition.

Thurman Etchison: Food Literacy Project

* Not in attendance.
* TE emailed 12/18/20: no update.

(Optional) Shantanu Pai: Mask Recycling Program

* 22,000 masks required to send off one bin.
* Between 50-52 bins around campus.
* First university to sign onto Teracycle program.
  + Duke, Northwestern, and UNC may also join in on the program.

Organics Master Plan

* iCAP objective deadline 12/31/2022
* SP will need 30” during Jan 25-29th meeting.

Roundtable discussion

* Discussion of SP21.
  + Meeting on Jan 29th at 4PM (unless otherwise notified of conflicts).
  + Will email to confirm that the date works for all members who did not attend the meeting.
* Vending Machine Single-Use Plastic Bottles
  + Plastic market is becoming better due to a supply chain interruption (due to COVID).
    - Many suppliers of plastic have stopped collecting plastics.
  + Create line of collaboration between Coca-Cola Sustainability Manager.
    - SP wants to talk to them about auxiliary unit bins.
    - Talk about avenues for incorporating sustainability into UIUC operations.
  + Discussion topic for SP21.
* Mitigating single-serve options at third party vendors.
  + CA willing to assist with this project.
  + iSEE Zero Waste Intern could assist in creating inventory for the third-party vendors in Union.
    - Can create their own framework, without assignment of scores to vendors.
* Northwestern’s Sustainability Manager willing to present on reusable dining operations (released during COVID)
  + Julie Cahillane (she/her).
    - J-cahillane@northwestern.edu
  + JS will schedule for meeting in SP21.
* Reuse of Surplus Goods
  + YMCA Dump & Run (for private goods).
  + Are there other options?
  + Discussion topic in SP21.
* Battery Recycling options
  + SP would like assistance on how to progress with battery recycling.
    - Financing program is an issue.
  + Batteries generated within housing/residence halls.
    - Can’t use F&S funds for auxiliary units.
  + Discussion topic for SP21.
* Purchasing Order Fulfillment: Sustainable Options.
  + Office Depot Reusable Tote
  + Working through logistical tasks.
  + Potential recommendation.
    - Suggest implementation of change in operations.
  + Discussion topic for SP21.
* Sustainability Digital Booklet Review.
  + Digital resource for purchasing sustainability (both static and dynamic guides).
  + SWATeam will have chance to review digital booklet content in SP21.
  + Discussion topic for SP21.
  + Engagement opportunities for sustainable purchasing options through iBUY/punch-out catalogues).
    - Provide opportunity for vendors to facilitate the provision guides on utilizing sustainability options within their departments.
      * Many vendors agreed to walk clientele on how to participate in green purchasing options.
* Engagement opportunities for food waste reduction options within dining halls and on campus.
  + Provide opportunity for dining to facilitate the guides on reducing food waste within their departments.
  + Option for MM and Zero Waste Intern webinar series.
* Sustainability integration into punch-out catalogues and iBUY.
  + Some changes have already been implemented:
    - Recycled content paper substituted in place of alternatives.
    - Sustainability filters on several punch-out catalogues.
* Purchasing Sustainability Report.
  + Exploring plans to implement this.
  + Discussion topic for SP21.
* JS will offer updates on behalf of team members when desired.
* ZW SWATeam should shoot for 2-3 recommendations to submit by April 2021.

Recommendations Wishlist

* Update the Waste Transfer Facility processes and procedures
* Each semester, school should have one week with sustainability theme. There could be sustainable design competitions, "no plastic bag for a week" challenge, and donating things to the need.
* batteries (A few of us co-wrote a proposal a couple of years ago.)
* No non-recyclable single use plastics available from food service provider
* Create a marketing campaign to raise awareness and reduce odd waste on campus. This would include a presence at convocation and quad day.
* Recyclopedia being developed by F&S
* Campus-wide student competition to help educate about zero-waste (in collaboration with Education SWATeam)
* Zero waste cannot be achieved without recycling and composting. Our team could start by monitoring the amount of waste at different locations on campus. And we can pick top 10 locations that generate largest amount of waste and implement composting and recycling trash bins. At the same time, volunteers could be assigned at each place to educate people to put trash in the right place. In this way, education and recycling could be done at the same time.
* SID tags on dumpsters being implemented.
* In identifying possible recommendations, I think we would do well to confer with Shantanu about what he thinks is feasible, should be a priority, etc. He seems to have a good grasp of where we are and where we need to be.
  + glass (I heard what Shantanu said about this; on the other hand, I wonder if we cannot build on what Housing/Dining is already doing; Thurman is a key resource here.)
  + plastic bags (one of a number of suggestions from the students in December)
  + solar panels (when the time comes - another student suggestion)
  + sustainable utensils and dishes (another student suggestion)
* Would like to pursue an anaerobic digester for campus.