Zero Waste SWATeam Meeting

Date: 4/23/21

Time: 4PM (CDT)

Attendees: Meredith Moore (iSEE), BK Sharma (co-chair & Faculty), Tim Stark (co-chair & faculty), Caitlin Aylmer (Staff), Aaron Finder (Staff), Maddy Liberman (student), Leah Courtney (student), Jenna Schaefer (non-voting student), Alexa Smith (future clerk), Julija Sakutyte (clerk)

Agenda

* Elimination of thermal paper receipts.
  + ***Potential Recommendation:*** ***Pursue sustainable receipt options to divert receipts from University waste stream.*** Change operations to eliminate paper receipts, where possible. Add infrastructure to accommodate e-receipts. Where infrastructure concerns arise, seek recyclable, compostable, biodegradable, etc. receipts.
  + Need to assess facility abilities to incorporate sustainable receipts options.
    - How should we achieve this?
      * Contact units directly?
        + AF will contact Todd Petrie to initiate contact with facility managers.
      * Feasibility Study?
      * Adopt a campus policy?
* Education of waste management to students
  + ***Potential Recommendation: RA Training***
    - This could be a collaboration with the Engagement SWATeam.
      * JS will put chairs into contact with the Engagement SWATeam chairs.
        + AS recommends developing the program further prior to seeking assistance from the Engagement SWATeam.
  + ***Potential recommendation: Education of administrators/purchasers. P-card training.***
    - Purchasing Office just updated website with informational videos. Content could be developed through this avenue.
      * ***Potential initiative:*** Develop sustainability training slide deck to be read by a Purchasing Office employee.
        + Pick a few sustainability items to highlight on iBUY.
        + This could also be an opportunity for the Zero Waste and/or Engagement SWATeam.
        + AF and Shantanu Pai could help develop content.
        + Would be dispersed by OBFS communications and/or Purchasing website.
    - Additional option: adding content to the training sessions for new members.
* Water is the #1 vending machine item; why?
  + ***Potential recommendation: Survey on drinking water behavior.***
    - Survey should seek to incorporate filtered water where unavailable, and to advertise the filtered water options.
    - ***Potential Recommendation:*** F&S Standard to replace water fountains with filtered water, adding sign to the fountain area/advertising the filtered water.
    - Research other institutions to see if initiatives have sought to reduce the impacts of bottled water.
    - Potential barriers: obtaining a representative sample in a study.
    - JS will ask Thurman Etchison about statistics about vending machine purchases.
  + ***Potential Recommendation: Education campaign.***
    - Filtered tap water is really not a large difference to the tap water provided by the city.
    - Mitigate perceptions of reusable bottles (too bulky to carry around, no space on person to carry around), as well as perception of tap water vs bottled water.
    - ML: <https://www.fillitforward.com/>
      * Stickers to put on reusable bottles/custom reusable bottles
      * Campus-wide competitions to see who uses reusable water bottles.
    - MM: <https://www.louisvillewater.com/>
      * Louisville Water has a great campaign for promoting tap water.
    - Student thoughts on how to educate/engage community with reusable water options rather than single-use options:
      * Taste-test competition
      * Educational initiative to advertise potential addition of microplastic to water bottles
      * Create and disseminate video with scientist/researcher to show the quality of tap water.
      * Report/engagement piece on money savings for utilizing reusable options rather than single use.
* Roundtable Discussion