**Zero Waste Sustainability Working Advisory Team**

Date: Friday, October 22

Location: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/83375942479?pwd=OUl5U25IVGtNT01hYXhwc2Mxb2JJdz09>

Time: 2-3 pm

*Attendees: Tim Stark (faculty), Alexa Smith (student), Avery Maloto (staff), Aaron Finder (staff), Clara Bosak-Schroeder (faculty), Sarah Shoaff (student)*

*Absentees: Mike Olinger (staff), Sydney Trimble (student), Jenna Schaefer (student), Yuanhui Zhang (faculty), Shawn Patterson (staff), Tim Knox (staff)*

Agenda:

1. Recommendations Introduction (15-20 minutes)
   1. Zero Waste Team recently-submitted recommendations & proposals from last semester
      1. <https://uofi.app.box.com/integrations/googledss/openGoogleEditor?fileId=872636408144&trackingId=3#slide=id.p>
   2. Recommendation Ideation (15 minutes each slide)
      1. <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pyy7VPSNl26ejTiTuqdBrvTjuHxSduc0yFkMByB2w88/edit?usp=sharing>
         1. 5 minute individual brainstorm
         2. 10 minute group conversation for each slide
2. Reminders (2-3 minutes)
   1. ISEE Congress on Circular Food Systems
      1. <https://sustainability.illinois.edu/outreach/isee-congress/isee-congress-fall-2021/>
   2. SSC Student Research Symposium
      1. 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Campus Instructional Facility

Meeting Notes:

* Recently Submitted Recommendations
  + Reusable Dining Containers Program
    - University Dining has deployed 20,000 units at various dining halls on campus (before recommendation was formally submitted)
    - Tracking on the success of this program has been severely limited
    - IWG recommends that Beckman implement the option for reusable containers, as was done at Bevier Hall and University Dining
    - Meeting minutes from summer reusable dining container meeting: <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/zero-waste-swateam-reusables-dining-meeting-notes-726>
  + Office Depot Greener Office Program
    - Has been deemed successful by iWG
    - Program has been implemented by iSEE, but has not appeared as an option on iBUY
    - Troubleshooting in progress
  + NERC Membership
    - Has been submitted and discussed by iWG
    - Discussion on which tier the University could reasonably commit to at this time
    - Eventually we would like to join the Government Demand Champion Program, but the cost and commitment might be unrealistic at this time
    - Still in discussion
* Recommendation Proposals from Last Semester
  + Sustainable Receipt Options
    - AF comments that we would need the support of different departments, but this would be logistically possible from the Purchasing side
  + RA Training
    - Curriculum could be developed by the Zero Waste iCAP Team and the Engagement Team could aid in “advertising” this information
    - Educating students on ZW practices as they are integrating into the university community
  + P-Card Training
    - P-cards are used for purchases less than $5,000
    - P-card mandatory training already exists, but a sustainability component is not incorporated
    - *Potential Next step: Establish the criteria for this training in order to propose it as a recommendation*
  + Drinking Water Behavior
    - Could be another collaboration with the Engagement iCAP Team to help distribute this information
    - *Potential Pathways: taste-test competition, create and disseminate video series, report money savings for utilizing reusable options rather than single-use*
* Recommendation Ideation
  + Areas of concern:
    - Compost/Food Waste
    - Construction Sites
    - Plastic bags/Fast food bags
    - Plastic packaging for office supplies
    - Single Use Coffee Cups/Beverages/Water Bottles
    - Lack of knowledge on recycling
    - Cigarette butts/vape/nicotine pods
  + Potential Solutions:
    - **CBS: We need to make sure that our recommendations are rooted in data!**
      * Help us to understand WHY people are engaged in these behaviors
      * Surveys
      * ST Suggestion boxes could increase participation
    - **Locations to target:**
      * ST mentions that location-wise, we could target dorms and dining halls
      * Construction site waste
        + CBS: Lots of cigarette butts were found at these sites during the trash clean up last April
        + Combining smoke-free and waste-free campaign
      * Recycling in apartment buildings
        + Recycling bins are not currently provided in campus apartments, but garbage bins are

ST: We wouldn't really be able to force apartment companies to add recycling, only make the suggestion

* + - * + Recycling standards differ between on campus and in apartments, which may cause some confusion for students

Ensuring that students understand the distinction between these two

* + - **Demographics to target:**
      * Targeting freshman demographics will give more pay off over time
      * Also full time staff whom are here longer than students
      * For food waste/compost, targeting faculty, staff and grads whom are less likely to eat in dining halls
    - **Drinking water behavior change campaign**
      * Comparing contaminants in filtered water stations on campus with those of bottled water
      * *Potential next step: researching into number of vending machines on campus (272) as compared to the number of water filling stations*
      * Contractual concerns: AF mentions that we are bound to Coca-Cola through contracts, but that shouldn’t stop us from pursuing plastic bans in the long-term
        + Currently aluminum alternatives are not feasible due to their lack of scalability/availability on the market
      * Resources provided by CBS regarding initiatives of other universities:
        + <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainability/2019/08/university-eliminates-single-use-plastic-water-and-soda-bottles-in-operations-on-campus/>
        + <https://www.augsburg.edu/green/2018/02/15/efforts-by-other-institutions-to-reduce-bottled-water/>
        + <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1196481>
    - **Enhancing Recycling Signage**
      * Increasing transparency between UIUC Waste Management and student body
      * More signs near the recycling bins that don’t have shadowboxes
      * More signs in areas where contamination is an issue
      * Especially related to which types of plastics are able to be recycled!

Action Items:

* Fill out when2meet for our next meeting (hopefully to establish a recurring meeting time): <https://www.when2meet.com/?13272442-UGQvN>
* Fill out Recommendations Wish List based on our discussion today: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Dn5rJlhENrQZiHFmnW1WQ2hBT58JyHCMpVAmevVgtpE/viewform?edit_requested=true>