**Zero Waste Sustainability Working Advisory Team**

Date: February 9, 2022

Time: 4-5pm

*Attendees: Jennifer Fraterrigo (Interim Director), Tim Stark (faculty), Alexa Smith (student), Jenna Schaefer (student), Sydney Trimble (student), Aaron Finder (staff), Clara Bosak-Schroeder (faculty), Tim Knox (staff)*

*Absentees: Sarah Shoaff (student), Mike Olinger (staff), Avery Maloto (staff), Yuanhui Zhang (faculty), Shawn Patterson (staff)*

Agenda:

1. **Current Recommendation Assignment Sheet**
   1. SWATeam Current Status (Rolling): <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/752439100944?s=oaknd7g1mj3id3vtbqiar0tpfribowsv>
   2. Current Recommendation Assignments (Rolling): <https://uofi.app.box.com/integrations/officeonline/openOfficeOnline?fileId=910108461755&sharedAccessCode=>
2. **Plastics Reduction**
   1. Aaron’s Vending Machine Data: [**https://uofi.box.com/s/x1ebabjhq9socv0xg1ohj6ior0k5xypr**](https://uofi.box.com/s/x1ebabjhq9socv0xg1ohj6ior0k5xypr)
   2. Questions from Meredith:
      1. Logistics, barriers, etc. of what it would take to update/revise our Coke contract to feasibly reduce/eliminate plastics on our campus
      2. What the scope of the Coke contract covers – does it also include campus convenient stores (essentially, anywhere that plastic bottles are distributed) or just vending machines?
      3. Who receives the revenue from the vending contract, and would thus be impacted if we were able to change the drinks from plastic bottles to aluminum cans?
3. **Composting Committee Recommendation**
   1. <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/915220129152>
   2. Jenna Schaefer: Committee Members
      1. <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/916904943135>
4. **Adopt-a-Highway**
   1. Updates from Syd Trimble
      1. Which stretch of highway should be adopted?
      2. What partners would be best to adopt with?
      3. Should we pursue an Adopt-a-highway or an adopt-a-drain program?
5. **Feasibility of Food Literacy Project**
   1. Mike Olinger
6. **Sustainable Receipt Options**
   1. Electronic Receipts at the Illini Union
      1. Rebecca Salzman
   2. University Dining e-receipts
      1. Mike Olinger

Meeting Notes:

* **Plastics Reduction**
  + Who oversees vending machines on campus?
    - Contract is broken down 50/50 between campus and athletics
    - Illini Union oversees campus component (Contact: Rebecca Salzman)
    - Typically, for the Illini Union this would be within the Senior Director of Retail Operations, who oversees the operations of vending machines on campus, but this position is currently unfilled
      * Tod Petrie is the interim in that position (also the manager at the bookstore)
  + Source of Plastics in Waste Transfer Station (WTS)
    - TS: Can we tell from the Waste Transfer Station, where the plastics are coming from?
    - ST: It would be hard to tell because the waste streams entering the WTS are not necessarily centralized.
    - TS: For example, if the plastic bottles entering WTS are predominantly Powerade bottles, its safe to say they are coming from vending machines.
    - ST: That type of data is not necessarily collected, but there is a waste sort study going on. Could be included within that project.
    - JF: The Plastics Reduction initiative has the attention of Kim Kidwell, who has close communication with the Chancellor.
      * It would be helpful for this committee to identify options for moving forward.
      * Other institutions with plastic bottle waste reduction initiatives: <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/882969603492>
  + Issues with Aluminum Cans
    - TE: Tried to purchase cans in mass during the pandemic, but Coke doesn’t supply as many flavors in cans, which could present some pushback moving forward
    - CBS: Do we think that cans would be recycled at a higher rate or with greater efficiency than plastics?
  + Vending machine data
    - 202 vending machines currently exist on campus: <https://uofi.box.com/s/x1ebabjhq9socv0xg1ohj6ior0k5xypr>
    - This data could be useful for a future survey or recommendation on siting new bottle filling stations
    - Highest volume vending machines: ARC, ECEB, BIF, Vet Med, Allen Hall, Grad Library, Library
  + JF: This recommendation will be something iWG reaches out about
* **Composting Committee**
  + JS: List of potential members: <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/916904943135>
  + How often should committee meetings be held?
    - JS: Keep it open for now. We can re-scope once committee meeting start.
    - CBS: People might want to know how often they are meeting/how much of a commitment this committee will be.
  + *Next steps: Reach out to Composting Committee potential members to gauge interest in recommendation*
* **Adopt-a-Highway Program**
  + Preliminary Research (ST): <https://uofi.box.com/s/nwnwt4u3hon101m2jrrzuq8gjnuhva5n>
    - Champaign Highway: wouldn’t work for groups that are temporary or informal
    - Champaign Highway vs Drain vs Urbana Highway
  + Adopt a Drain
    - ST: Target during rainy seasons, but this is only a recommendation not necessarily monitored.
    - ST: Can be either a single drain or several drains on a single street
    - TS: Because there can be big branches, leaves, etc. clogging a drain, this is a more intense cleanup than litter pickup
    - AF: Whichever is closer to campus would be best
    - CBS: Would it be important to rent dumpsters for these occasions?
      * AF: Road signs and collection were given for Adopt a Highway. Basically, adopters notify them with a date and time, and they will pick up the bags of litter left on the side of the road. The team would not need to dispose of it.
    - AF: You can take time off to volunteer for this program as a faculty or staff member.
    - CBS: That only really impacts staff who don’t necessarily need to account for time in the same way. People might be more interested in this if they are inherently interested in environmental issues.
    - *Next steps: Reach out to Adopt a Drain and Urbana Adopt a Highway to identify areas near campustown that have the greatest need.*
      * *Adopt a drain near Boneyard would be both*
* **NERC** 
  + Update: AF spoke with Director
    - NERC has 4 active committees
      * Plastic and Paper Recycling Markets
      * Bottle Bill: anytime plastic is sold there is a charge, which can be reimbursed if the plastic is recycled
      * Glass committee
      * Organics committee
    - Our membership status should be confirmed soon!

Action Items:

* Fill out [when2meet](https://www.when2meet.com/?14538048-fo6L7) to schedule recurring meetings
* Work on respective recommendations discussed at today’s meeting