**Zero Waste Sustainability Working Advisory Team**

Date: March 10, 2022

Time: 4-5 pm

*Attendees: Jennifer Fraterrigo (Interim Director), Tim Stark (faculty), Alexa Smith (student), Sydney Trimble (student), Aaron Finder (staff), Clara Bosak-Schroeder (faculty), Shawn Patterson (staff), Jenna Schaefer (student), Tim Knox (staff), Sarah Shoaff (student), Mike Olinger (staff), Avery Maloto (staff), Yuanhui Zhang (faculty)*

*Absentees:*

Agenda:

1. **Plastics Reduction**
   1. Plastics Reduction Strategy Presentation: <https://uofi.app.box.com/integrations/googledss/openGoogleEditor?fileId=922733441672&trackingId=3#slide=id.p>
   2. Waste Data with Pallets: <https://uofi.box.com/s/mej1nw7b2wlg0kqzq0x7lvbwd80e6xeg>
   3. Recommendation: <https://uofi.box.com/s/xdck14phgvd6j8f9d76dpzt4yl14h0o2>
   4. DIA Meeting with Coca Cola: working on looking at the current contract with Coke (five year deal) that is campus wide and determining where we can plug into ways and opportunities for recycling.
   5. Questions:
      1. Is the point that the buildings with the most vending machines are our best opportunities for having an impact with a messaging campaign?
      2. Are these buildings also where the highest quantities of bottled drinks are purchased? If you have data on quantities by building, you should be able to address that question.
2. **PWR009: Paper Policy Update:** [**https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/pwr009-paper-policy-recommendation-transmittal**](https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/pwr009-paper-policy-recommendation-transmittal)
   1. [**https://cam.illinois.edu/policies/bf-11/**](https://cam.illinois.edu/policies/bf-11/)
3. **Composting Committee Update**
4. **Adopt-a-Highway Update**
5. **Food Literacy Project**
6. **Sustainable Receipt Options**

Meeting Notes:

* **Plastics Reduction**
  + **Campus Data Supporting Plastic Waste Reduction**
    - **Vending Machine Placement: Highest Density Areas**
      * The point of this data is to demonstrate that filling stations should be posited near these locations, although we don’t know where current filling stations are (one of our pending recommendations addresses this)
    - **Vending Machine Quantities**
      * The point of this data is to demonstrate the sheer volume of plastic bottle waste that exists on campus. For instance, just under 20,000 cases of 24 pack beverages are sold each year. This data was collected pre-pandemic, which is more reflective of our trajectory, although COVID did decrease these numbers by about 50%.
    - **Amount of Plastics #1 & #2**
      * Pre FY-17/18 should be taken with a grain of salt, according to Shawn Patterson because there was less of a robust focus on data collection.
      * There seems to be an oscillating trend with a steady incline
      * About 40 tons of plastic waste in FY21
    - **Lack of Purchasers of Plastic Waste**
      * This is largely due to the fact that plastic is so cheap
      * Must incentivize buyers by mixing with other materials
      * Add a copy of this slide after Proposal 1!
    - **Northeast Recycling Council**
      * UIUC is negotiating membership with this coalition
      * Aaron will provide email exchange information
    - **Campus Race to Zero Waste**
      * Category 1: Build Awareness
      * Category 2: Support Behavior Change
      * Category 3: Assess and Implement Operational Change
        + Audits & Zero Waste Volunteering
        + Support Reusables & Compostables: Foodservice
        + Supporting Reduction of single-use plastic: BANS ON BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, STRAWS, FOOD WRAPPERS
        + Implement Hard to Recycle Programs
      * Category 4: Demonstrate Institutional Leadership (
        + Governance includes sustainability leadership
        + Curriculum Integration
        + Research & Innovation Integration
        + Circularity Criteria in Purchasing
        + Strategic Planning & Budget Integration
    - **Other Universities Strategy**
      * Reduce the amount of text and bold important items
    - **Preliminary Recommendations**
      * First, we would like to conduct a survey to understand why exactly people on campus are choosing to use plastic water bottles. Is it an issue of convenience? Inaccessibility? Fear of water quality?
      * Our second recommendation surrounds water filter system tracking, which is actually within Category 2 of the Campus Race to Zero Waste
    - Proposal 1:
      * EM: Silicon can toppers for aluminum cans can be used, and they could be given out on the Quad with UIUC branding.
      * Pros:
        + Coke is eager to engage in discussions (with Athletics & Zero Waste Coordinator
        + Coke is interested in sustainability initiatives: 35% recycled plastic -> 50% by 2030
        + This agenda would essentially eliminate plastic from vending machines
        + In Waste Department, aluminum generates more profit than plastic

Avg price/bale aluminum: $100

Avg price/bale plastic: $20

* + - * + Money acquired through recycling could be used to improve waste and recycling infrastructure
        + The baler is from the 1980s!
    - Proposal 2:
      * Pros:
        + Addresses the issue of water quality, if that is deemed the main driver behind single-use plastic bottles
        + Also, if (lack of) accessibility to drinking fountains is the issue, this could be an effective solution
        + Supported by NWF Campus Race to Zero Waste
    - Proposal 3:
      * Pros:
      * Spillover effects: could have a positive effect on other sustainable behaviors
* **Composting Committee Updates**
  + One committee will be focused on SSC-funded tumbler infrastructure, primarily comprised of students already working on such projects
  + A second committee would be focused on organics recycling on campus, more generally and could be comprised of faculty & staff as well as students

Action Items:

* Fill out [when2meet](https://www.when2meet.com/?14924243-cOa8c) to schedule next meeting