**SWATeam Recommendation**

Name of SWATeam: Zero Waste

SWATeam chair(s): Tim Stark Date submitted to iWG: 3/2/22

Recommendation title: Water Filter System Tracking

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*For internal use only*: Date reviewed by iCAP Working Group:

Specific actions/policy recommendation: The Zero Waste Team recommends that the number and status of all EZH20 bottle filling stations on campus are tracked by number, location, amount of water bottles saved, and their filtration status (I.e. green, yellow, red/date of filter replacement).

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: F&S/Building Managers

Rationale for recommendation: For the Zero Waste team’s drinking water behavior change campaign, having quantitative data on the number, location, plastic reduction and filtration status of bottle filling stations could be used to create a map to help encourage students to use these stations. Additionally, knowing this information will allow us to target particular areas of campus with/without these filling stations, and recommend that more be installed in areas where stations are sparse in the future.

Connection to iCAP goals:
5.2 Reduce the total campus waste going to landfills from 5,049 tons in FY19 to 4,544 tons or less in FY24, which is a decrease of at least 10%.

5.3 Establish a culture of reuse, with two major campuswide zero-waste events using durable goods and composting in FY22, four in FY23, six in FY24, and eight in FY25.

Perceived challenges: Collecting this data may be a large undertaking. In order to get an accurate measure of the number of stations, there either needs to be either an audit of each campus building or outreach to building managers of each campus building, which in either case would be very strenuous. If filter status were to also be recorded and continuously updated, this would require continuous communication between building managers and the campus unit rolling out this recommendation.

Anticipated timeline of implementation: Data collection for this should begin by the start of the Fall 2022 semester, or as soon as possible according to time constraints of the iWG.

Anticipated budget (identify if cost is up-front or continuous): This recommendation does not require any budget.

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (one or two sentences):

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| Team Member Name | Team Member’s Comments |
| Tim Stark (chair) | I think this would be a good database to understand reusable water bottle usage on campus. |
| Jenna Schaefer | I support this recommendation. Hopefully areas without many filling stations can be identified and more can be installed in these areas. |
| Clara Bosak-Schroeder | I support this recommendation and see it working in tandem with our survey. If the placement and maintenance of water filling stations is, as we suspect, a driver of water bottle usage, it will be important to have them installed in strategic locations, working at their best, and easily mapped for students to access. Perhaps the map we generate could be added to the Illinois app.  |

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| Sarah Shoaff | No comment. |
| Avery Maloto | I support this recommendation. Moving forward, I think that an interesting component to possibly incorporate would be to compare water filter usage against location population density, distance from residential dining areas, etc. to see if there are any correlations between this metric and other student behavioral activities.  |
| Syd Trimble | I support this recommendation since we have identified that this type of metric is currently not tracked. It is important to move away from plastic in general due to its cheap production yet low-value recyclability and starting with metric tracking for alternatives is one of the first steps.  |
| Mike Olinger | I support this recommendation. |
| Aaron Finder | I certainly support this recommendation, but priority should be for the survey recommendation. |
| Tim Knox | I support this recommendation. Agree with other members that producing a map and way finding part in the app would be a great benefit. |
| Yuanhui Zhang | N/A |
| Shawn Patterson | N/A |

Further explanation and background (can be supplied in an attachment):

Comments from consultation group (if any; these can be anonymous):