

Zero Waste iCap Meeting

9/6/2022

Attendees: Jennifer Fraterrigo, Nishant Garg, Justin Holding, Shreya Mahajan, Nikki Palella, Jenna Schaefer, Joy Scrogum

Introductions

- Nikki: Zero Waste Clerk. Wants to see more collaboration with University Housing.
- Shreya: Facilities & Services Waste Management Intern. Wants to see more composting on campus.
- Nishant: Assistant Professor in Civil & Environmental Engineering. Background in chemistry of construction materials.
- Jenna: Returning Zero Waste Team member, Illini Lights Out intern for iSEE.
- Joy: Assistant research scientist with ISTC. Food waste prevention and productions.
- Justin: Affiliations with University Housing. Wants to work with DIA to adopt more sustainable practices.
- Jennifer: NRES professor, iSEE Associate Director.
 - Jennifer mentioned that the charge letter will be sent out today. This document will give us more direction that other teams in the past didn't have. It will help us target certain aspects that we already have momentum in.

Box

- We will need to keep a shared folder to store all files, meeting minutes, and zoom recordings.
- There is already a Zero Waste folder on Box from previous years, which we added present team members to so that they may access and review materials.
- Nikki will create another AY2022-2023 subfolder to store this year's resources in.

2021-2022 Chairs Discussion

- Nishant mentions that it may be beneficial to meet with last year's chairs to discuss where they left off and any suggestions they may have.
- We can conduct this meeting as a group if it works with everyone's schedule.
 - Joy mentions we could learn from the barriers they faced and any initiatives they had hoped to do.

Charge Letter Review

- The Campus Sustainability Celebration will be on October 17th.

- We must submit our completed slide on behalf of the Zero Waste team by October 7th.
- Nikki will be receiving more information on what the slide must contain in the coming weeks. She suggests we might want to have a second meeting to work on completing these slides together before the second iCap meeting.
- April 7th is our last day to submit any recommendations.
- Shreya advises that we spread the word about Zero Waste initiatives to friends, classmates, and colleagues.

iCAP Chapter Review/General Discussion

- Shreya brings up the ongoing issue that the University does not recycle glass.
- Joy mentions that she knows of working groups in solar that we could get involved with.
- Jenna is the President of *Project for Less*, which focuses on food waste. They have a grant from the SSC that expires soon.
- Jon discusses that at the athletic dining facilities, there is no composting. He spoke with a student athlete that stated they take home styrofoam containers and plastic cups everyday from their dining area.
 - He adds that some members on the **Engagement** iCap team are affiliated with the DIA so we might want to collaborate with them.
- On the topic of athletics, Shreya mentions that for work she toured the football and basketball stadiums—neither recycle.
- Jen agrees that there is potential in focusing on the **athletics department**. She adds that Ohio State has done a good job of making their athletics more sustainable, and that this is something we could do some passive research on.
 - We could research what other Universities are doing and hone in on the tailgating aspect.
- Jen discusses the issue of lack of infrastructure and bins for outdoor waste. What is the spatial distribution of our recycling bins?
 - Shreya mentions that F&S places the outdoor bins and the Grounds Department collects outdoor trash.
 - There is potential to partner with the **Education** iCap team for this.
 - Nikki adds that there is not enough education on how one dirty material in the batch can contaminate the rest of the materials, rendering them unrecyclable. There are many people with good intentions who want to recycle but don't know the right ways.
- Jen brings up that every week she is meeting with Coca Cola representatives on the topics of recycling and reducing plastic waste.
 - Let her know if you have any ideas that you would like brought to the attention of those representatives.

- Justin has some contacts from other Universities that can give her insight on their contracts.

Action Items:

- Figure out if we want to host another meeting this month (and when that might be) to get the Sustainability Celebration slide done.
- Complete another When2Meet to plan the October meeting with the goal of increasing overall attendance in mind.
- Contact the Zero Waste Chairs from last year to set up a discussion.