**North American Meeting Minutes 1-25-23**

**Attendance:** Zach Hansen, Molly Wallner, Daphne Hulse, Pete Varney, Macie Sinn, Joe (manufacturers’ representative in facility supply space), Eric Deyerler

* How do you balance budget versus sustainability goals?
* Michigan State University has made a good amount of progress with green cleaning
* Joe was regional, now CEO of national organization
  + Different abilities for sustainability
    - e.g. U of I has composting as a wish, but it’s not feasible in the immediate term
* Can-liner walk:
  + Number of can liners being utilized because of all of the different receptacles.
  + The university would need to reduce all of the receptacle types.
* UIPUI had 15 different cans around the facilities:
  + Inconsistencies of facilities buying garbage cans from everywhere.
  + Different buildings purchasing things separate from the others.
  + Long term: consolidate to just ~4 containers:
    - Office
    - Classroom
    - Hallway
    - Food service
  + Right material, right thickness, and right size can assist with sustainability goals.
  + Source reduction: wrong bag, wrong facility is a major component of Joe’s work.
* Types of material: compostable, low density (stretchy) for sharp objects, high density (strong unless punctured), how much weight is thrown away (kitchen bags are very strong because consumers don’t want to make a mess, but it’s too strong).
  + Compostable bag is expensive and adequate (not great).
* Recycled content: post-industrial content can liners, EcoLogo standards for post-manufacturer and post-consumer products.
* Dive into the use of the products to ensure success. Do test sites, where staff put in test bags and see if they work.
* Can improve the budget positively for can liners. And want to help the workers out (reduce puddles, for example).
* Appearance for facilities can be improved positively.
* Difference between liners that are EcoLogo versus not EcoLogo
  + Virgin polyethelene will perform better than recycled polyethelyne
  + Balance of understanding what the needs of the facility are - more than measuring the can. How often do you empty? What is the use? Can influence the thickness or needs of the bag.
* Historically U of I has used big bags for tiny containers, because “a big bag will still fit in a small container”
* Quick estimate:
  + 37,000 lbs into landfill give or take
  + sizing right would cut that in half, probably
* Next steps:
  + Pete and Daphne: determine what is the priority here: recycled content, landfill diversion, etc.