

SWATeam Recommendation

Name of SWATeam: Energy Generation, Purchasing, and Distribution

SWATeam Chair: Scott Willenbrock

Date Submitted to iSEE: 5/4/2015

Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences): Seek expert external reviews of the Utilities Master Plan.

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences): Ensure that the Utilities Master Plan is vetted by experts from beyond our own campus.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences): Utilities represent the single largest source of campus greenhouse gasses.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences): None

Suggested unit/department to address implementation: iSEE, F&S

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high): Low

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

Team Member Name	Team Member's Comments
Scott Willenbrock	I endorse this recommendation. An external review of the plan is part of due diligence, and could prove to be very valuable.
Angus Rockett	I am opposed to this recommendation. The external review seems redundant with the original development of the plan and has the potential to lead to extended discussions rather than implementation of the plan. The review is also too large a project given the budget available to provide meaningful analysis without narrowing the scope.
Mike Larson	I do not endorse this recommendation.
Tim Mies	I support this recommendation as an opportunity to receive external feedback and/or suggestions on the Utility Master Plan from peer institutions with a minimal financial cost.
Drew O'Bryan	I support this recommendation. As an elite public university, I believe it is important to seek external input when available to ensure best practices. To date, potential errors have been noted within the Utilities Master Plan. It would be irresponsible to allow such errors to remain within a document serving as a framework for the coming decades. External reviews will aid to provide second opinions that will allow the University to serve as a leader in energy generation, purchasing, and distribution.
Nathan Wells	The vision of University of Illinois includes "engagement, public service" and "global reach." External reviews by experts from peer level research universities would also fulfill University of Illinois' guiding values to "be accountable for our actions and exercise responsible stewardship," "be inclusive, treat each other with dignity and respect and promote citizenship," and to "foster innovation and creativity." As a world renowned public research institution and citizen of the global community, our maneuvers in the space of sustainability should foster innovative and creative solutions as we approach milestones set before us leading to carbon neutrality among specific goals set forth in the iCAP. Making our institution's endeavors in the space of sustainability available for peer expert review is an act of stewardship to our state and

	global community at large, which would benefit from manifestations of best decisions agreed upon. Refer to University of Illinois Mission and Vision: https://www.uillinois.edu/about/mission
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Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous): N/A

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment): See attachment

Recommended Review of Utilities Master Plan

iSEE

Energy Generation, Purchasing, and Distribution SWA Team

May 2015

We recommend a review of the Utilities Master Plan by expert external reviewers.

Background

Utilities represent the single largest emitter of greenhouse gasses on campus. The Utilities Master Plan is thus an extremely important document with regard to sustainability. Due diligence implies that an external review of the Utilities Master Plan should be undertaken before it is finalized and approved.

We recommend external reviews of the Utilities Master Plan by experts that have a proven commitment to sustainability. A few recommendations for external reviewers are listed below.

Joe Stagner, Executive Director of Sustainability and Energy Management, Stanford University.

Stanford has undergone a major utilities transformation over the past few years, which included a study of many different options for their campus energy system. While Stanford's climate differs from ours, their innovative ideas could prove useful to our own energy planning. In addition to his position at Stanford, Joe Stagner is a member of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) on Technology and the Future of Cities. He has previously reviewed the Utilities Master Plan of Michigan State University.

Ferman Milster, Principal Engineer, Office of Sustainability, University of Iowa

The University of Iowa has made a concerted effort to use biomass in their energy system. While most of the biomass has been in the form of oat hulls, they are also planting Miscanthus grass for use as biomass. Ferman Milster is leading the University of Iowa Biomass Fuel Project, which also involves Iowa State University.

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ATTN: Ben McCall, Chair, iCAP Working Group

June 15, 2015

RE: EGen002 Utilities Plan Review

Hello iWG,

F&S does not agree to a review of the Utilities Master Plan (UMP) by outside experts.

The Master Plan is a strategic plan, which will evolve with time, even after the UMP is formally approved by the Chancellor's Capital Review Committee. The iCAP objectives for clean energy options and low-carbon power purchase agreements will also be pursued in the coming years, and those results will be incorporated into the operational plans for campus utilities.

Whether vetted by a colleague at another university pro bono, or through potentially hiring a consultant to review the work of the UMP consultant, a review would add a significant time-delay. It would also increase the workload on the F&S Utilities & Energy Services staff, in the way of supplying information and data to a new contact.

This would be a duplication of efforts, which is unwarranted for this planning document. We understand that five of the eight iCAP Working Group members expressed similar concerns about a duplication of efforts, and it was suggested that the Egen SWATeam could work with F&S staff and the UMP consultant to review the renewable energy and geothermal scenarios. These discussions have started already.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Morgan B. Johnston

Morgan Johnston
Director of Sustainability, F&S

CC: Allan M. Stratman
Executive Director, F&S

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May 29, 2015

Allan Stratman
Executive Director
Facilities & Services

Dear Al,

I am writing on behalf of the Illinois Climate Action Plan Working Group to formally transmit two recommendations. The first, "Utilities Master Plan Review" (EGen002) came to us as a recommendation from the SWATeam on Energy Generation, Purchasing, and Distribution; the other, "Zero Waste Coordinator, came from the Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling SWATeam. Attached you will find a form summarizing the iCAP Working Group's assessment of each recommendation, and the SWATeam recommendation itself.

I should note that the EGen002 recommendation was controversial, both at the SWATeam and the iWG level. However, there seems to be broad support for further discussions about the geothermal and renewable energy aspects of the AEI report, and I cannot imagine why F&S would be opposed to allowing the SWATeam to solicit comments from relevant outside experts about these aspects of the report. There would be no cost to F&S, and such a limited external review could only be helpful in ensuring that the Utilities Master Plan is complete and accurate.

I ask that you or your designee provide a written response to me by June 12, indicating whether or not your unit concurs with these recommendations, and (if so) detailing your plans and timeline for implementing the recommendations.

If F&S disagrees with any aspects of the recommendations, or if F&S cannot implement a recommendation for budgetary reasons, I ask that this be explained in your response.

Thanks very much in advance for your consideration of these recommendations!

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. McCall
Chair, Illinois Climate Action Plan Working Group