**iWG Assessment**

**iCAP Team Recommendation Ref #:** ZW002 Join NERC Government Recycling Demand Champions

**Date of iWG Assessment Started:** 4/27/21 **Assessment Transmitted: 8/23/21**

**iWG Recommendation:** We recommend that the Purchasing Office join the NERC Government Recycling Demand Champions program at some level. The levels include champion, advocate, and organization.

**iWG Routing Direction (*department name, SWATeam, or Council*):** Purchasing Department c/o Aaron Finder

Individual comments from each iWG member:

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| --- | --- |
| iWG Member Name | iWG Member’s Comments |
| Ximing Cai  (iSEE) | I support that Purchasing Department joins NREC as either an advocate or organization as s a start, during which the Department may understand more about the requirements & benefits, and then decide if move to the champion level. The Department may also communicate with campus units and provide necessary coordination around the effort. |
| Morgan White  (F&S) | This program includes useful resources for increasing the purchase of recycled-content goods.  F&S supports this recommendation and suggests joining at the organization level, similar to our SmartWay Affiliate membership. |
| Marcus Jackson (Representing Auxiliaries) | I support this recommendation pending moderate impact on budget and/or policy is confirmed and manageable. |
| Matthew Tomaszewski  (Provost Office) | I support this recommendation to pilot, but further investigation is needed on any potential cost, operational, and space implications required to implement on larger scale. |
| John Dallesasse  (Academic Senate) | I support this recommendation, pending further examination by the University’s purchasing group.  It may be advisable to have an evaluation at some interval after implementation to examine any adverse impact.  Some research purchases may need to be exempt if the products don’t have fully equivalent functionality. |
| Sandy Yoo (System Office) | UOCP supports this recommendation. From what has been presented to the group thus far, this is an added resource for the University along as well as a way to communicate the sustainability efforts that are happening here at UIUC. |
| Qu H. Kim (Representing College Facilities) | I support the recommendation, but is there any requirement that the university needs to meet to join or remain as a partner? It should be clearly defined in the recommendation. |
| Jonah Messinger (Student Sustainability Committee) | I support this recommendation. This is a great way to show leadership in circular economy and recycling, although recycling is just one part of developing a circular economy. Also, it helps leverage UIUC dollars to promote markets for PCR materials. |
| Maria Maring (Student Sustainability Leadership Council) | The new SSLC board supports a pilot program of this recommendation. |
| Alexandra Gergova, Illinois Student Government Environmental Sustainability Committee | I support this recommendation because it results in reduced wood usage and an influx of recycled materials. |

**Original SWATeam Recommendation:**

*University of Illinois to join the NERC Government Demand Champion Program.*

1. *Free technical assistance in training, recognition, and tools to support efforts in the program. This will help us find more Post-consumer recycled (PCR) products by engaging with existing or identifying new vendors, provide training opportunities to department buyers, and/or provide the SWATeam with innovative engagement tools to increase buy-in across campus.*
2. *Aligns with State of Illinois Procurement Code (ILCS 500/45-15 & ILCS 500/45-20)*
3. *First University to join the program*
4. *National recognition for sustainability commitment*
5. *Support a circular economy*

**iWG Assessment of budget and policy impacts (*check one*):**

**\_\_X\_\_** moderate budget and/or policy impact OR \_\_\_\_ major budget and/or policy implications

**iWG Routing Need (*check one*):**

\_\_\_\_\_ more detailed study OR **\_\_X\_\_**transmit recommendation OR \_\_\_\_\_ forward to Sustainability Council