

iCAP Team Recommendation

Name of iCAP Team: Engagement

iCAP Engagement chair(s): Ann Witmer, Kratika Tandon

Date submitted to iWG: 12/8/22

Recommendation title: DIA to Join Green Sports Alliance

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

Specific actions/policy recommendation:

The 2020 Illinois Climate Action Plan calls for the university to increase the visibility of campus sustainability efforts by joining the Green Sports Alliance through the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics by summer 2021. While the DIA has not formally joined the Green Sports Alliance, Facilities & Services became a member of the GSA in June 2021, and GSA presented at the October 2021 Illinois Green Infrastructure & Erosion Control Conference. Other Big Ten Institutions involved in the GSA are Indiana University, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, The Ohio State University, The University of Iowa, The University of Michigan, and The University of Minnesota (Swanson 2022).

University of Illinois Athletics is a role model for college sports. Formally enrolling in the Green Sports Alliance will bridge the gap between organizations/colleges on campus, as well as leading sustainable efforts along with other Big 10 Schools.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

Division of Intercollegiate Athletics and F&S

Rationale for recommendation:

The University of Illinois Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is among our institution's most public facing entities. Each year, Illinois Athletics events bring tens of thousands of students, fans, and community members to cheer on student athletes. Every Illinois Athletics event features advertisements from sponsors and messaging from the University on topics such as diversity, equity, and inclusion; however, environmental sustainability was not included as an aspect of DIA messaging until very recently, and this lack of action has placed Illinois behind fellow Big Ten institutions who are leading the national charge in incorporating sustainability into athletics. Two examples of conference peers leading the way in sustainability are the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University, who both received full credit in the AASHE STARS report for the range of sustainability practices incorporated (Swanson 2022).

Connection to iCAP goals:

iCAP 2020 Goal 7.3: Increase visibility of campus sustainability efforts by joining the Green Sports Alliance through the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) by summer 2021.

Perceived challenges:

Acceptance of joining program from DIA. Cost/benefit analysis.

Anticipated timeline of implementation:

Nov. 2022-Jan 2023

Anticipated budget (identify if cost is up-front or continuous):

Membership Fee

Standard—\$1,000— “Standard Members will receive information shared throughout the Alliance network on best practices and up-to-date progress taking place throughout the sports industry.”

Premier— \$2,500— “Premier Members receive enhanced support across their own sustainability initiatives and programs, as well as being recognized as leaders within the sports greening movement.”

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

Team Member Name	Team Member’s Comments
Ann Witmer	I strongly support this recommendation, particularly because of the high visibility that DIA brings to the sustainability efforts of iCAP.
Kratika Tandon	I believe that the implementation of this program would be a great addition to improving overall campus sustainability at our university. UIUC Athletics could set a great example for other universities to hopefully follow.
Claire Keating	If the DIA joins this alliance, it will allow iSEE to collaborate with athletics on campus, an entity that is crucial for sustainability here. If we join, it will be a symbol for the DIA to uphold environmentally-friendly efforts.
Sophie Fox	I support this recommendation and believe that joining GSA will make us spear headers in sustainability, which can allow us to act as a role model that other universities can follow. UIUC athletics is also a large role in campus engagement, so we can set the tone throughout the univeristy community.
Kathy Adams	DIA joining the GSA would be extremely beneficial in developing more sustainable practices embedded into sporting events which are have very high attendance ratings. I support this recommendation.
Shibu Kar	I support increasing the visibility of campus sustainability efforts by joining the Green Sports Alliance through the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. This will also increase our university reputation on sustainability nation-wide.

Mika Lew	I am in support of this recommendation. Considering that other big ten schools are part of this alliance, I think it would be great if we joined as well. This could potentially foster collaboration with other universities while still fulfilling our 7.3 goal.
Tim Knox	I am in support of this recommendation and will work to make sure DIA is a strong supporter of this effort.
Keilin Jahnke	I am in support of this recommendation because of the impact the DIA can have in enhancing the University's sustainability efforts.
Dave Guth	

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

We would like to acknowledge Tyler Swanson and Meredith Moore for creating the Report on Sustainability in Athletics. Most of the content in this recommendation has been derived from said report.

For more information about Sustainability in UIUC Athletics, please read their report:

[Report on Sustainability in Athletics at the University of Illinois.pdf](#)

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