

Natural Resources and Utilities Working Group: Tuesday September 23, 2008

Members: Mr. Ronald Ripley, Ms. Jackie Gast, Ms. Melissa Lind, Mr. Peter Dombrowski, Dr. Jon Koch, Prof. Alan Madry, Ms. Joan Sommer, Mr. Mike Whittow, Mr. Andrew Seifert

- Mr. Whittow discussed the University's role in sustainability and the Sustainability Task Force
- Mr. Ripley explained what we do now and have done recently
 - \$5 million contract with Johnson controls to overhaul lighting, building mechanical systems, bathroom fixtures
 - Have tried low-flow showerheads
 - Steam used to heat most of campus
 - Have faced cultural issues in past
 - Example: Only 1 or 2 people may need to use a building after hours but that requires entire building to be "turned on"
 - Marquette must remain cost sensitive – money comes purely from tuition
- As groups progress we should be generating ideas through everyday experiences
- Desire for MU to be on the cutting edge of energy conservation
- The student co-chair, Ms. Gast, wishes to speak with residence halls
 - Educational purposes
 - Lighting
- Dr. Koch suggested that we determine where our biggest opportunities may be
 - This is possible through monitoring (HVAC %, water consumption, energy consumption, etc)
 - Could develop model to help benchmark buildings on campus
 - Must define our own measurement system – use a constant unit
- Additional Ideas/suggestions:
 - Less lawn, more rain gardens
 - Drainage system that could collect rain water and store in reservoir
 - Could be used for landscaping
 - Natural gas vehicles
 - WE Energies has some
 - Currently there are 2 gas stations in Milwaukee with infrastructure
 - Get broad group to address issues
- There are a number of projects that we could do for free
 - This could be done through education and communication across campus

Recycling Working Group: Wednesday September 24, 2008

Members: Mr. Jerry Kohn, Mr. Casey Lembke, Mr. Don Kynaston, Mr. Michael Cosgrove, Ms. Patricia Berge, Dr. Robert Griffin, Dr. Jane Peterson, Mr. Mike Whittow, Mr. Andrew Seifert

- Mr. Whittow discussed the University's role in sustainability and the Sustainability Task Force
- Mr. Kohn explained current recycling efforts at MU
 - MU does have a full recycling program, began in 1992
 - Paper has the greatest volume of recyclables

- The custodial staff collects recyclables
- The major problem recycling on campus faces is contamination (i.e. throwing a bottle in a paper bin)
- It is estimated to be 3X cheaper to recycle than to put trash in a landfill
- We currently recycle about 20% of our waste stream, initial goal is to reach 30%
- Currently only able to recycle #1 and #2 plastics but are looking for single source recycling (all recyclables can go in one container)
- Dr. Peterson mentioned that recycling and trash habits are better in other parts of the world
 - We need to educate on better utilization
- Ms. Berge suggested using the library as a means of educating students
 - Heavy traffic – especially during finals week
 - Lots of contamination
 - Library is perfect place for educating academic side
- Dr. Korb discussed what her Spring class has done with recycling on campus
 - Conducted a scientific study on recycling here on campus
 - Has found that recycling areas that use pictures are more effective
 - Must find a way to shift the current paradigm/behavior towards one that is more sustainable
- Mr. Cosgrove mentioned that the Rec Center is also a high traffic area and has an opportunity to enhance plastic bottle recycling
- Mr. Lembke mentioned what he and SEACs goals for the semester are
 - Begin seeking feedback from students across campus
 - Primary goal this semester is to educate campus – change the way people think
 - “infiltrate” residence halls and establish green committees and eco-liaisons
 - Look into recycling for off-campus housing/campus town
 - Trying to get 48 different native Wisconsin trees on campus
 - Nature walk or educational purposes
 - Last semester ran a Trash for Cash program in Straz Tower
- Main goal should be education – not just students but faculty and staff, talk to others around you
- Additional ideas/suggestions:
 - Blog instead of newsletter – possibly even a wiki
 - Dorm competitions
 - Add recycle bin outside of Raynor (can’t bring items in, recycle instead of trash)
 - Talk to purchasing about printers, don’t necessarily need new computers every 3-4 years but could allocate that money to more efficient equipment

Supplier/Vendor Working Group: Thursday September 25, 2008

Members: Mr. Todd Vicker, Mr. Oliver Vranjkovic, Ms. Ali Myszewski, Ms. Mary Jo Goodwin, Dr. Keith Bauer, Mr. Jay Kirk, Dr. John Schmitt, Ms. Jenny Alexander, Mr. Craig Meyer, Mr. Mike Whittow, Mr. Andrew Seifert

- Mr. Whittow discussed the University’s role in sustainability and the Sustainability Task Force
- Goals for the group
 - Determine what “Green Seals” represent, what they mean
 - Benchmark green seals and determine gold standard seals
 - Consider establishing policies that adhere to these seals for future purchases/contracts

- Evaluation of current suppliers
- Ms. Goodwin has 4-5 seals that are the gold standard
 - Many companies Greenwash (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenwash>)
- Could use certain products as litmus test for future endeavors
- Will use presentations in future to save paper, generate ideas

New Buildings Working Group: Thursday September 25, 2008

Members: Mr. Michael Jahner, Ms. Sadie Tuescher, Mr. William O'Brien, Ms. Carol Dufek, Fr. Michael Class, Dr. Janet Krejci, Dr. Christopher Stockdale, Mr. Mike Whittow, Mr. Andrew Seifert

- Mr. Whittow discussed the University's role in sustainability and the Sustainability Task Force
- Eckstein Hall, Discovery Learning Complex and Zilber Hall will all be seeking LEED certification
 - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>)
 - LEED is the current gold standard for "Green" buildings
 - Determines overall carbon footprint of a building
 - Is an independent review by the USGBC
- Group will discuss options for older existing buildings
 - Currently, faculty members are constrained in the summer months due to humidity within the buildings. Would prefer to have A/C on during weekdays and weekends. Not only having problems with experiments but also with equipment (ex. Printers).
 - Discussion of AMU move towards a more student oriented building
 - Having trouble reserving rooms
 - Students going to law school because there is room available
 - Thought of moving some offices out and into new locations as new buildings become active
 - Idea to transform AMU rooms into more communal friendly
 - Is expensive to remodel, could remodel existing locations in other buildings because remodeling will occur anyways
 - Additions to buildings is also expensive and takes away green space
 - Green space is the reason the parking structure behind Lalumiere was put on hold.
- Dorms are a possible location to make some changes
 - Low flow showerheads – current technology allows for greater water pressure
 - Water is cheap and hard to justify payback on large scale overhaul
 - Could justify small projects to conserve water
 - Certain lights on 24/7 – this is required
- Better bike rack design for future installments as well as additional location options

We mentioned in the meetings that we would provide you with the current Marquette Sustainability web site (http://www.marquette.edu/administration/dept/sustainability_bymarquette.shtml). If you have any suggestions for changes you would like to see please feel free to pass them along. We will be continuously updating the site as the semester and year progress. Thank you!