

# May 2010 Working Group Minutes

## General updates:

Mike Whittow was approached by the Renewal Task Force to see how we can cut operating costs further. We then asked Working Group members to come up with 5 projects/initiatives they thought would help reduce operating costs. Several sample projects can be found in Appendix 1.

The Sustainability Task Force met for the spring semester on Tuesday, May 11. Minutes from the meeting will be posted on the [sustainability website](#).

We would like to thank our student co-chairs Jackie Gast (Natural Resources & Utilities) and Casey Lembke (Recycling), who will be graduating, for their participation in the working groups. We appreciated and valued their voices and dedication to sustainability at Marquette!

## New Buildings Working Group: March 31, 2010

Members present: Ms. Katharine Stanford, Mr. Bill O'Brien, Ms. Lori Ozminkowski, Mr. Michael Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert

Members Absent: Mr. Michael Jahner, Dr. Chris Stockdale, Fr. Michael Class

## Updates

- Cobeen will receive a cosmetic renovation this summer and have their sprinkler system installed.
- Norris Park will have the terrain regarded, the security updated, and fencing will be installed.
- Johnston Hall will receive elevator work.
- The Discovery Learning Center will be precast and the shell will be up by the time students return for the fall semester.
- Zilber is considered complete.
- Eckstein should be done by June 11<sup>th</sup>, people will move-in around July 1.
- O'Hara will be coming down sometime after graduation—it is currently gutted and asbestos free.

## Recap of the April combined Working Group meeting

- The combined meeting was thought to be good for a first time event.
- Some members felt there was an odd dynamic because the attendees were asking basic sustainability questions.
  - The students seemed interested.
  - From some of the questions, it would seem that some of our educational information did not reach them.
  - However, the students were aware of the LEED building certification system. This may be because they were an engineering class and would therefore not be very representative of the rest of campus.

## Natural Resources Working Group: May 10, 2010

Members present: Mr. Ronald Ripley, Ms. Jacquelyn Gast, Mr. Peter Dombrowski, Ms. Joan Sommer, Dr. Jon Koch, Mr. Michael Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent: Prof. Alan Madry, Ms. Jacqueline Walker

The Natural Resources & Utilities Working Group had a guest presentation by Ryan Lettau from [Renewable Energy Solutions](#).

Recap of the April combined Working Group meeting

- There wasn't much discussion between working groups but it was good to have Rick Flood's class there to ask questions.
- For the future we could have one closed session with the working groups and one open one.

Guest presentation

- Renewable Energy Solutions partners with schools and non-profits to have renewable energy installed on campuses.
- Other institutions Renewable Energy Solutions has partnered with are Concordia University (25.85 kW solar PV system), Hope Middle School (18 kW system), and Wisconsin Lutheran College (14.1 kW system).
- Renewable Energy Solutions would help Marquette seek grants for the proposed solar PV system.
  - The first grant they would seek would be from Focus on Energy for up to \$58,000. The second grant would be from We Energies to pay 50% of the remaining system cost (up to \$100,000). The cost of the system would then be reduce to about \$100,000.
- It makes the most sense to place the system on a building that is running on secondary electricity which is more expensive than primary electricity.
  - The new Child Care Center at the 500 building was considered an ideal building for this project.
- The solar panels are said to last between 30 and 50 years and with degradation of about 0.5 percent per year.
  - Several inverters would have to be replaced once throughout the life of the panels.
- The next steps are to take a look at the contract that would be used along with a possible site visit.
- Hurdles: we need to find a location that can accommodate a 6,000 square foot system. The university would also need to be willing to pay either \$42,000 (or current Net Present Value payoff amount) for outright ownership of the system at the beginning, or \$100,000 at the end of 15 years.
- The system could also be used for academic/educational purposes adding additional value.

## Supplier Working Group: May 6, 2010

Members present: Ms. Sapna Patel, Mr. Craig Meyer, Ms. Mary Jo Goodwin, Mr. Christopher Porterfield, and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent: Mr. Todd Vicker, Mr. Jay Kirk, Mr. Michael Whittow

#### Updates

- This year's Office Supply Swap was nearly as successful as the first one conducted in 2009.
  - \$8,545.38 worth of goods was able to be reused within Marquette, while \$5,902.70 was donated.
  - Customers were very excited and want to have a supply swap more than once a year.
    - It was suggested to host an additional supply swap in the fall around late October or early November.
      - There's a good chance the FY11 budget will be constrained as well.
  - OfficeMax was enthusiastic about the event and provide this service free of charge.
    - OfficeMax has also been able to take some business away from Bubricks on campus.
    - OfficeMax helps make this an easy event to hold on campus.
  - The event came at the perfect time because there was a spending freeze.

#### Recap of the April combined Working Group meeting

- We should try to get more ideas bouncing around next time.
  - The April meeting felt more about asking students how they felt versus group collaboration.
- The idea of breaking the larger group down into smaller mixed groups seems like it would be advantageous.
- Not much participation from SEAC or other student groups.
  - Students came from Rick Flood's engineering class.

#### How does SEAC feel about what's been accomplished on campus?

- SEAC feels excited about single-stream and wants to educate people about it.
  - It's difficult to get people in residence halls to recycle.
    - How are they not recycling?
      - Students are just throwing everything in the trash.
    - Idea: have Program Assistants in the residence halls – have a sustainability or environmental coordinator in residence halls.

#### Other recycling

- How prevalent are Veolia's recycling posters?
  - They are present and easy to figure out in Straz Tower
  - There are large posters in Cudahy
- There isn't a big recycling station in Lalumiere.
- People are doing a fine job of recycling in the library.
- Would it be better to have consistent signs across campus and have a more unified campaign?
  - Pictures work best for showing what can and cannot be recycled.
  - The AMU Green Team is putting little sustainability stickers above light switches to remind people to turn them off. Could we do a similar thing with recycling or spread this idea across campus?
    - We could also ask our janitorial supplier to put posters in restrooms to share our green cleaning products and practices.

- Craig will pursue this with Inner City Supply
- Another idea proposed was to have a recycling competition or a “secret audit”.
  - The competition should be made fun to maximize inclusion.
- We could also explain recycling during orientation and follow-up after a couple weeks to see how people are recycling.
  - The important thing is to get students as they come in.
  - We should also say that recycling is part of our culture and we are currently striving for the 30 percent diversion rate.
- Is there a way to include recycling into RA training?
  - Approach Rick Arcuri about including recycling in RA training.

#### Future Supplier meetings

- Bring in ISB to present
  - Considered a prime example of sustainability.
  - This presentation should be given to a larger audience than just the Supplier Working Group.
    - One idea is to open the Supplier meeting to the campus community and encourage groups/organization leaders to attend.
    - ISB needs notice by June or July for a fall meeting time.
- We could ask Jim Phillips to present – t-shirt vendor
- To aide our recycling efforts, we should get Veolia to present to a larger group, especially students.
  - SEAC will try to get their recycling video complete during the summer.
    - Couple the video with a dumpster dump and add to a recycling campaign.
    - Next step: contact Veolia to find out what sort of clearance students need to video tape.
- Have a construction supplier present.
  - What are they doing to make the new buildings and renovations green?
    - Engineering students may find this appealing and should be invited to attend.

A question was asked to find out if Public Safety was doing anything to decrease fuel consumption.

- Student safety is paramount, but there may be a trade-off somewhere in there to help reduce fuel consumption.

## Recycling Working Group: May 3, 2010

Members present: Mr. Jerry Kohn, Mr. Casey Lembke, Dr. Jane Peterson, Ms. Patricia Berge, Mr. Michael Cosgrove, Mr. Michael Whittow, and Mr. Andrew Seifert

Members absent: Mr. Don Kynaston

#### Recap of April combined Working Group meeting

- Mainly talked about recycling during the meeting.
  - People are generally happy about single-stream.
  - People are beginning to notice more outdoor recycling bins.

- Need to look at increasing the number of outdoor recycling bins.
      - Budget is tight right now and there is no spending until middle of June/July.
    - Students are more interested in recycling. This could be attributed to their ability to get involved with the 30 percent goal.
  - There wasn't much talking between the working groups and should be addressed for the next combined meeting.
    - Felt more like a presentation.
    - Some group members were thrown off by the number of students there.
    - Could split the larger group into four smaller groups that include members of different Working Groups.
      - Have assigned seating.
  - The idea for April's meeting was to open it up to the university.
  - Working Group attendees were surprised that some students didn't know we had single-stream.
    - Shows that we need to educate the student body more on recycling.
    - Maybe there isn't enough recycling in convenient locations?
      - All residence halls have recycling in their basements—except for Cobeen where it is on the first floor.
    - Some attendees were advocating for having recycling be floor-by-floor.
      - This would be difficult for custodians and there may not necessarily be enough space to accommodate this.
      - This program was also tried in McCormick which turned into a mess because students were just using the bins as dumping grounds.
      - Certain programs like Trash for Cash were successful and could be implemented further.
        - SEAC presented this idea in Schroeder a couple years back but was not brought back the following year.
        - Maybe SEAC could talk to the various Hall Councils each year.
          - Trash picked up once a week for a \$1 fee.
            - Money could go to student organization(s) or charity.
            - The program often collected \$40 - \$80 per collection.

#### Other recycling

- Ms. Berge noticed there wasn't recycling bins in the parking structures.
- There are few printed materials on recycling for students.
- Students have expressed that pictures work better than text for recycling materials.
  - Dr. Korb's class research project suggests this to be accurate.
- We can work with OMC on recycling materials for the employee side, but MUSG and their peers should work on the student side.

#### Recycling updates

- ~~Recycling rate has fallen to 18.3 percent for March.~~
- ~~However, the total amount of trash had decreased by close to 75 tons for the same period.~~

**UPDATE:** The March data given is incorrect and the actual recycling rate for March was 21.17 percent.

- Monitors have been installed on the AMU and Al McGuire Center compactors.
  - These monitors signal to Veolia when they are full so that Veolia can pick them up.
  - These monitors will increase efficiency because Veolia will only pick them up when they are full versus a specific collection schedule.
- It is still more expensive to landfill our trash than it is to recycle.
  - Instead of saying it's more expensive to use a single-stream system; we could say it's less expensive to recycle and that by recycling we can save tuition dollars.
    - Need to motivate students to recycle.
- We sort of “shot ourselves in the foot with single-stream” because commodity prices have increased and receive \$400 for a ton of paper and cardboard.
- Battery recycling: no numbers yet but buckets have been distributed to Zilber Hall and the residence halls.
  - Not promoted as well as it could be.
  - The buckets were supposed to go out during Green Week but were about a week late as they needed approval to be placed in lobbies.

#### Roundtable discussion

- We should see if there is a way to tie recycling with basketball.
  - Athletics was open to the idea and the Bradley Center has introduced recycling to their operations.
- Some schools are giving out free reusable bags.
  - You could couple the bags with reusable water bottles.
  - Advertise sustainability website on bags and will help send a message to the student body.
  - Sodexo has looked at this and found that there were mixed reviews.
- We should begin a discussion on composting.
- Have a broader farmers market in the fall semester.
  - The farmers market during MUSG Green Week was successful and could be made more successful next time around.
- We need to find a student group to take on the Dumpster Dump for next year.
  - The weather did not permit for a Dumpster Dump during Green Week—it was scheduled for Tuesday, April 6.
  - A Dumpster Dump would be an excellent piece to a recycling campaign because it is so visual.
- An idea was proposed to look at installing central recycling shoots in buildings, especially new residence halls (Campus Town has these).
  - It would make recycling easier and all the recycling would end up in a central location.
- A question was asked why Green Week wasn't during Earth Week.
  - We tried hosting an Earth Week last year but met with little success because several student groups plan events/themes for that week (Greek Week, AIDs Awareness Week, etc.). It is also a tough week because it is close to finals making schedules tighter.
- We still need to place outdoor recycling bins at high traffic locations.

## Appendix 1

- Have energy competitions with accompanying prizes,
- Have students conduct energy audits of different buildings,
- Set up a personal appliance (space heaters, mini fridges, etc.) policy to reduce energy consumption,
- Provide incentives to the Marquette community for using fuel efficient vehicles,
- Install heat recovery systems at residence halls,
- Lighting retrofits in residence halls,
- Explore fluorescent bulbs in parking structures,
- Seal McCormick windows better,
- Look at the AMU HVAC system,
- Update Cramer building air compressor and downsize it,
- Install dual flush toilets in residence halls,
- Install solar hot water system at the new Child Center location,
- Set up a furniture reallocation/reuse program for study abroad students,
- Provide discounts for using reusable mugs at soda fountains,
- Establish an award for the “most sustainable” or “greenest” student,
- Have the Manresa Project be themed towards sustainability,
- Establish coupons for students who buy sustainable supplies at Book Marq,
- Purchase smaller hybrids for Public Safety cars,
- Have more Public Safety officers deployed on bikes during warm months,
- Organize a carpool/rideshare program for employees,
- Have each residence hall keep a community garden.