

# November 2009 Working Group Minutes

General updates:

Homework assignment for all groups: think of possible sustainability questions we can submit for the Admissions survey. Our goal is to see how students perceive sustainability and what aspects of sustainability are important to them or their decision for choosing a certain institution.

There was a light bulb exchange program for off-campus students living in houses. These students received energy efficient CFL light bulbs in exchange for their less efficient incandescent. These bulbs were to be installed on their porches encouraging students to keep them on to help increase neighborhood safety.

Mike Jahner of the New Buildings working group received the Big Diverter of the Year award for the universities recycling efforts on the 1212 building.

MUSG along with several other groups are hosting a green week during the week of April 6. Please feel free to make any suggestions for the green week that we may pass along.

Current recycling rate under the new single-stream program is at 22 percent. Some people still do not think we recycling in residence halls so it will be important to take corrective actions to address these issues.

## New Buildings Working Group: November 11, 2009

Members present: Mr. Michael Jahner, Ms. Katharine Stanford, Mr. Bill O'Brien, Ms. Lori Ozminkowski, Fr. Michael Class, Dr. Chris Stockdale, Mr. Michael Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert

Members Absent: Ms. Carol Dufek

### I. Updates

- a. Third floor of Zilber is moving in and finishing building out fourth floor
- b. Finishing building enclosure on Eckstein and should be done by Thanksgiving
- c. Demolition for Engineering should begin shortly, currently disconnecting utilities
- d. February – March excavation begins for Engineering

### II. Look further into survey

- a. Need to look at how we word the survey questions.
  - i. For instance, "rank your top three most important environmental issues" or "of these choose three that are important to you"
- b. Need to check whether the survey is computer graded or not because this may not provide us with good data

### III. Current Buildings

- a. Marquette builds 100-year buildings
- b. Most buildings on campus can obtain LEED certification because LEED now looks a great deal into how a building is cleaned, how it is operated, how it runs, etc.

- i. These issues can be more important than the building itself because they determine true energy efficiency.
- IV. LEED certified vs. Green Building (LEED certifiable)
  - a. Need to determine how people feel about a LEED certified building (higher initial cost) vs. a green building (one that can be certified but does not incur initial cost, puts back into building)
    - i. Must consider that LEED certification offers third-party verification that a building is truly green
    - ii. Must consider costs of becoming LEED certified and see how people feel about that cost

## Natural Resources Working Group: November 9, 2009

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

Members Absent: Ms. Jacquelyn Gast, Ms. Jacqueline Walker

- I. Updates
  - a. Ron has spoken with a local contractor about solar potential on campus who said that photovoltaic (electricity) solar was the best option.
    - i. Solar hot water systems have a longer payback period
    - ii. Solar hot water demand is also more difficult to meet/judge
- II. Solar power on campus
  - a. To get solar power to a large scale, we would need systems on several buildings
  - b. We must also look at buildings that are using secondary electricity because these buildings are paying more per kWh than buildings running on primary electricity
  - c. Capital dollars would be hard to obtain due to the current competition for funding on campus
    - i. We would need to make a hard sell to get funding, show that such a solar project would show that Marquette University is dedicated to sustainability
    - ii. Another problem we run into deals with current budgeting/accounting practices
      - 1. Current practices do not take into account continuous cost savings
        - a. Receive \$10 budget for electricity this year, completing a project brings electricity cost down to \$9, next year you only receive \$9 budget instead of \$10
        - b. Thus, these are not cost savings projects, but cost avoidance projects

## Supplier Working Group: November 10, 2009

Members present: Mr. Craig Meyer, Ms. Mary Jo Goodwin, Mr. Jay Kirk, Mr. Michael Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert

Members Absent: Mr. Todd Vicker, Ms. Sapna Patel, Dr. Keith Bauer, Mr. Chris Porterfield and Dr. John Schmitt

Presentation: Jim Graebert from the Marquette Spirit Shop

- The Spirit Shop has been addressing unfair labor practices for some time now
  - The whole movement began with Wal-Mart's use of sweatshops
  - Student's then created Worker's Right Consortium (campus apparel only) to bring these issues to light
  - Marquette is a member of the Worker's Right Consortium and the Fair Labor Association
  - There was a movement to use designated suppliers suggesting that universities could only buy from a certain group of suppliers, but did not pass
    - The supplier base would have dropped from 3000 to 1500 and would not have been able meet demand
    - This would also be illegal due to anti-trust laws
  - One major problem in the system is that even if the main suppliers are using sustainable practices, their subcontractors can still cause problems.
  - This whole movement was created by students
    - The collegiate market is less than 1 percent but is now "squeaky clean" compared to the rest of the garment industry (athletic footwear is considered to be the worst)
    - One must also be careful to good rather than do harm – you don't want to go into a country and shut down a plant that people's livelihood rely on
- Some sustainable products you can find in the Spirit Shop:
  - Life Works
  - Project 7
  - SIGG Bottles
  - In addition to the above, they are always looking to add eco-friendly products to the mix

## Recycling Working Group: November 11, 2009

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: Dr. Robert Griffin, Mr. Don Kynaston

- I. Updates
  - a. September 2008 vs. 2009 recycling statistics
    - i. 2008: 20 percent overall      2009: 22 percent overall
    - ii. 2009: 10 percent increase in recyclables collects (diverting more recyclable materials away from the landfill)
- II. Recycling on campus
  - a. Working with Sodexo to make sure they are rinsing cans before recycling them
  - b. Some bins around campus still have the old recycling information on them, these will be changed

- c. There have been additional requests for desk-side blue bins and these requests are being accommodated
  - i. For instance, some study rooms in the library do not have recycling bins
- d. Blue tops for exterior recycling receptacles are \$117 each and contain the word recycling on all 4 sides. Double stone units (similar to the ones we have) are \$617 each.
  - i. 3 blue tops have been purchased and will convert 3 existing trash cans into recycling stations. These converted recycling stations will be located in high-traffic areas to see how they fare.