

November 2011 Working Group Minutes

Natural Resources Working Group: November 14, 2011

Members present: Mr. Mike Jahner, Ms. Kimberly Campbell, Dr. Kevin Siebenlist, Dr. Joshua Knox, Dr. James Anderson, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent:

Discuss current resource use by buildings

- Resource usage in residence halls goes down in December and January because students are not living in the buildings during those times.
- Buildings use steam instead of electricity for heating.
 - Steam comes from the valley plant – district steam.
- Electricity is used more for plug loads and lighting.
 - Plug loads are up to the individual (i.e. turn off TV, computer, Xbox, etc.).
 - Does it help to turn off lights every time you leave a room? Yes.
- Water is cheap so there is not much incentive to spend considerable amounts of money on more efficient fixtures at this time.
- Recommendation: calculate energy use on a per square foot basis to see who the campus “energy hogs” are.
- Want to shut down more buildings over Christmas break, but there tends to be a few people who want to use the buildings. This means the entire building needs to be turned on.
 - One caveat is that Christmas can be the best time to run research because the campus is empty and people have more free time.
 - Can buildings be turned on on a floor-by-floor basis?
 - Depends on the building. Newer buildings with newer systems are able to be managed floor-by-floor.
- Buildings are set-back at night and turned on again at 6 am to conserve resources.
- Facilities Services measure building resource use through meters.
 - MU owns some of the meters and We Energies own others.
- Could we host a competition to see who can reduce energy usage the most?
 - This has been done in the past and can be made more encompassing in the future.
- Some research requires buildings to run 24 hours due to incubators, fridges, freezers, etc.
 - Can’t run experiments in rooms that are 50 degrees.
- More efficient lighting will be installed as current light fixtures burn out.
 - Don’t want to throw away lights that still work.
 - Not cost effective to replace every light at the moment.

Round Table Discussion

- Work on developing a campaign for turning lights off. Some of the signs next to lights look like they are from the 1960s.
- Work on 1-page building reports showing resource use and hand out to building users.
 - Include tips on how to save energy/water.

New Buildings Working Group: November 18, 2011

Members present: Ms. Katherine Sanford, Dr. Mark Federle, Dr. Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Dr. William Donaldson, Mr. Daniel DeWeerd and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Guest Presenter: Mr. Tom Ganey, University Architect.

Members Absent: Mr. Charles Haas and Mr. Mike Whittow.

Tom Ganey gave a presentation on Marquette's sustainable building practices

- Buildings are often repurposed on campus rather than demolished.
 - This helps extend the life of the building.
 - Marquette can acquire buildings and repurpose them.
 - McCabe Hall was turned into a residence hall and rehabbed to be more efficient.
 - Haggerty's was not a 100 year building and it could not be rejuvenated (ex. Floors were warped).
- Need to rejuvenate Marquette Hall and Sensenbrenner Hall so they last another hundred years.
- Parking structures began being constructed in the mid 90's to help repurpose surface lots.
 - Surface lots used to be all over campus.
- New buildings and some new retrofits are seeking LEED certification.
 - The best return from LEED certification is the commissioning aspect.
 - 3rd party tests all equipment to make sure the building works as it was designed to.
 - Buildings have fewer problems once they are up and running.
- One deterrent from building extremely sustainable buildings is the huge up-front cost.
 - Current energy costs do not help with paybacks for some of these ultra-sustainable measures. Some paybacks may end up being 50 years or longer.
- We try to buy local materials but it can be hard at times.
 - An example is German sycamore vs. local maple. Although the sycamore is from Germany, the local maple requires more maple trees cut down to achieve the quality veneer that is desired.
- Marquette buildings are now using more outdoor air and are using heat-capture units.
 - Example: heat is captured from the data closet and turned into cool water to cool the data closet.
- Marquette is We Energies largest steam customer. Steam is a by-product of their electricity production that would normally be exhausted into the air.

Round Table Discussion

- Some ideas to be 'greener' within buildings include: turning off computers, turning off projectors, turning off conference room lights, turning off classroom lights. At the moment these tend to rely on personal behavior choices.
- Buildings are also open whenever people want to use them which is a huge energy drain.

Recycling Working Group: November 15, 2011

Members present: Mr. Jerry Kohn, Ms. Taylor Behnke, Dr. Barbara Kren, Mr. Michael Cosgrove, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members absent: Dr. Jane Peterson.

Updates

- UW-Madison has decided to switch from single-stream to co-mingled recycling. They made the switch in order to cut down on costs.
- We will be looking to see if the composting pilot project can be adopted at other residence hall dining locations.

Overview of recycling at Marquette

- We have been struggling with behaviors towards recycling.
- Recommendation: See if we can get office assistants on board with office recycling. Share single-stream recycling practices with them and see if we can put posters up near the multi-functional devices.

Move-in/move-out recycling

- Could there be a common university reuse website for such things as TVs or futons?
 - The Purchasing Department currently operates a website for internal furniture reuse but there is not a website for student reuse.
 - Recommendation: Maybe a Facebook page could be created similar to the page for selling tickets or swapping books.
 - Such a page may need to be created through MUSG or RHA to get the most student participation.
 - Could it be a class project?
 - Need people with a 'presence' on campus to get it started.
- Students tend to bring more 'stuff' back with them than they left with in December.

Supplier Working Group: November 7, 2011

Members present: Mr. Todd Vicker, Mr. Craig Meyer, Ms. Katherine Rakowski, Dr. Owen Goldin, Dr. John McAdams, Mr. Mike Whittow and Mr. Andrew Seifert.

Members Absent: Dr. Linda Menck and Mr. Chris Porterfield.

Updates

- This semester's office supply swap was successful.
 - Participation level was high.
 - OfficeMax takes charge and inventories all goods.
 - Leftovers are donated to a viable cause.

Discuss language in RFP concerning sustainability and diversity

- The language in the RFP is to help serve the local community/businesses and promote job enrichment.
- Marquette tends to be a bit 'higher touch' than other service companies.
 - Value-added services are something we pay attention to.
- The Purchasing Department puts together a 'market basket' of goods and pits suppliers head-to-head.
 - This allows businesses who wish to compete an opportunity to reply to the RFP.
- Purchasing also likes to hold business reviews to solicit feedback on supplier performance, communicate short-comings, and keep communication lines open.
- There is a goal to attain a 15% diversity rate among the Marquette supplier base.