

# **SWATeam Recommendation**

Name of SWATeam: Purchasing, Waste and Recycling

SWATeam Chair: Bart Bartels

Date Submitted to iSEE: 05/04/15

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Specific Actions/Policy Recommended (a few sentences):

**Hire a Zero Waste Coordinator to communicate and implement waste reduction strategies, to meet the commitments of the iCAP.**

Rationale for Recommendation (a few sentences):

The iCAP includes a commitment to implementing a Zero Waste campus policy. The problem is that there isn't a current job description that provides the scope to cover all of campus. The person in the position needs to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the campus waste stream – from the sorting process at the Waste Transfer Station to the daily routine of the BSWs, from logistical issues to construction & demolition practices. There needs to be communication and coordination amongst all campus entities to minimize waste in a systematic way, and at the moment that is not anyone's responsibility.

In the last year, several activities have been done in an effort to reduce waste. Zero Waste sporting events, participation in Recyclemania, and e-waste collections have been done. But each project was done in isolation, without a long-term plan to build on successes and change the culture over time. A Zero Waste Coordinator would provide stability to the initiative and a consistent vision to move the university towards its iCAP goals.

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

Adding recycling stations and removing isolated landfill bins connects with Purchasing/Waste/Recycling Strategy 5 of the 2010 iCAP which states, "Identify opportunities for an increase in reuse and recycling of materials".

Hiring a Zero Waste Coordinator is PWR Objective number 8 of the 2015 iCAP. As mentioned above, Zero Waste sporting events, participation in Recyclemania, and e-waste collections have taken place as independent projects. The Zero Waste Coordinator would provide the stability to make incremental improvements toward long-term goals.

Perceived Challenges (a few sentences):

The biggest perceived challenge of implementing this recommendation will be funding. Given current funding constraints, it will be difficult for any single unit to fund this position. For that reason this position may need multiple units to collaborate across departments to create the position, but our hierarchical culture could present a barrier in doing so.

Suggested unit/department to address implementation:

Anticipated level of budget and/or policy impact (low, medium, high):

Facilities & Services is the suggested unit for implementation although it could also be placed in ISEE, ISTC, or even DIA. If this position is shared, time allocation would most likely, but not necessarily, be divided by each department's financial contributions, meaning the department that provides the greatest contribution should house the position.

**The budget level is considered medium because the position would most likely be full-time and include benefits.**

Individual comments are required from each SWATeam member (can be brief, if member fully agrees):

| Team Member Name    | Team Member's Comments  |
|---------------------|---|
| Bart Bartels        | I approve of this recommendation as written. Campus needs a champion to implement waste reduction strategies.   |
| Marcy Wright        | I approve this recommendation as written to insure that the University of Illinois is achieving iCap goals.   |
| Dilip Chhajad       | I approve of this recommendation.   |
| Warren Lavey        | OK for me.  |
| Elizabeth Shancer   | I agree with the recommendation as stated. Bringing projects out of isolation and creating a holistic plan for zero waste, is more than necessary for a campus of this scale. |
| Karin Hodgkin Jones | I recommend they move forward as written. The zero waste coordinator position will help to unify the implementation of the iCAP vision for the campus.                        |

Comments from Consultation Group (if any; these can be anonymous):

**It is suggested that this recommendation be considered with another submission – a position that addresses waste reduction from the purchasing and procurement perspective. The PWR SWATeam believes two additions to staff are required because the time demands will be too great for one individual and the preferred knowledge bases are quite different.**

Explanation and Background (can be supplied in an attachment):

**Please see the attached Waste Characterization Study that was performed on four campus buildings in early 2014.**