

Purchasing, Waste, and Recycling Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tim Stark, Joy Scrogum, Morgan White, Robert McKim, Laura Schultz (filling in for clerk), Julija Sakutyte (transitioning new clerk)

Date: 10/22/2018

Time: 4-5:30pm

1. Introductions
2. Tracking recycled-content paper
 - a. Joy said this has been discussed for a long time on this committee and wonders if this recommendation has gone through as of this spring.
 - b. Morgan explained that it has been transmitted to F&S and that it has been waiting on the revamping of a campus purchasing policy. Morgan has talked to the purchasing director & a member of OBFS about the policy and has suggested the recommendation be rerouted to purchasing. Micah Kenfield has said instead the main issue is that people need to be educated about the policy. Morgan has the ability to get the data on amount of recycled paper purchases for departments, colleges, campus, etc.
 - c. Morgan suggested that at the next meeting an agenda item is made to discuss what the current policy is, what policy options are, etc, with Brad Henson, Director of Purchasing, there.
 - d. Joy pointed out that educating every person who makes purchases on campus is a challenge, so an idea to consider is making recycled content paper the only thing available on purchasing punchouts. Essentially take the choice out of purchasers' hands.
 - e. Morgan agreed that this idea is strong, but doesn't know how to go about it. Robert said that Brad also likes this idea.
 - f. Morgan thinks it may also be helpful to make SWATeams more interactive with campus – such as having iBuy meeting with PWR about recommendations.
 - g. Robert said that implementing the punchout idea wouldn't be technically difficult (according to Brad), but just a matter of the university actually deciding to do it. The process of this decision is unclear to everyone here.
 - h. Morgan pointed out the economic reason against buying recycled content paper is kind of moot because the university has a discount with F&S Stores.
 - i. Morgan asked to start with slides at the next meeting to figure out what the current policy relating to paper purchasing is.
3. Indoor bin trial plans for NCEL
 - a. Morgan explained the current status, which is: we still don't have enough BSWs to support a vast increase in recycling bins in all campus buildings. But, we do have permission from their leadership to do it in Newmark as a pilot. There is a survey from the building, a map of interior existing bins, suggested locations, and a draft paragraph of how they ought to be placed. There are also other students

who want to help with this topic and a professor in CEE (Professor Roman Makhnenko) who requested SSC funding for additional bins and a website (which the SSC denied). Morgan will meet with him on Thursday to discuss further involvement.

- b. There are work orders by building for BSWs, so tracking the changes after this program would be possible.
 - c. There is also a possibility to do targeted messaging in Newmark for the new recycling bins – would it be necessary? Probably a good idea to do so, via email lists, in person announcements, etc.
 - d. Joy suggested a recommendation to make sure information received at employee orientation does not perpetuate the myth that all recycling put into campus trash bins will get sorted out at the Waste Transfer Station.
 - e. Morgan brought up that one associated problem is that some buildings don't have paper dumpsters, so even separated paper will eventually get into the mixed waste dumpster. Joy suggested another recommendation that all recycling bins get blue bags to prevent contamination in mixed waste dumpsters, which Morgan thinks has potential.
 - f. Robert asked if it would make sense to have a “one size fits all” policy for where recycling bins get placed in all buildings. Morgan and Joy talk about guidelines that are in place or have been discussed before, such as proximity to elevators, vending machines, etc.
 - g. Morgan said that the best thing for the team to do with the Newmark project right now is to keep tracking it & pushing for it.
 - h. Joy suggested Harding Band Building as a second pilot site because of the proposal from a former SSLC/Marching Illini student to increase recycling capabilities for the band's lunch on game days. But is it more a bin issue or a catering procedure issue?
 - i. Morgan said that it seems to be an event based thing, so maybe F&S should provide a tote for recycling for all events it would be needed. This could also be scalable to other events on campus. Joy pointed out that since F&S can currently be contacted to get recycling bins, it could be advertised that they could be contacted for these totes as well.
 - j. Joy asked if there is any need to have a zero waste event guide that could be distributed via F&S. Morgan likes the idea.
4. Outdoor bin updates
- a. There is a map of where existing outdoor bins are, as well as another map of where additional bins might go, and an estimate for how much it would cost to replace all bins. However, Morgan thinks this estimate is wrong.
 - b. MCORE is installing about five such bins on Green Street with University funding, so that will help get a better estimate of this cost, which depends on many variables.

- c. Morgan is talking to some CE students who are very interested in outdoor bins, who noticed that the locations picked were all very central, and nothing peripheral. These students have a semester to complete this project, of looking at the cost to install each bin suggested.
- d. These will be mixed waste receptacles: one bin for landfill & one for recycling at each site. They are covered receptacles – dome shaped. There is currently one installed at Altgeld Hall by the post office.
- e. No funding currently decided on, but Morgan has specific funding sources in mind to use (including SSC funds for this year).
- f. Past studies have shown that students are generally good at not putting recyclables in landfill containers, but don't really know how recycling works on this campus.