

CCSE Recycling and Waste Management Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2014

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Paulina Street Building (PSB), 1140 S Paulina, Conference Room 107

Present: Anthony McClellan, Richard Anderson, Cynthia Klein-Banai, Joe Iosbaker, Rhea Rashad, Joshua Dorka, Gabriela Bedolla, Tamneka Grant, Alec Piironen, Kelly Ting

Topics:

1. Food Scrap Collection Project in Student Centers
 - Food scrap collection project is funded by a grant from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and has been ongoing for three semesters. Since the start of the project the recycling rate of UIC had increased from approximately 10% to 25%. Last summer there had not been any collection until the start of fall. In September 2014 we had collected 20,000 pounds of food scraps. So far only East campus has started collecting again. Anthony will look into this matter to find out what is happening with West campus in food scrap collection.
2. Recycling Rate
 - Beginning FY2010 to date, the recycling rate in UIC has doubled. It peaked in FY2012 and continues to fluctuate over the following years. In FY2014 alone recycling had a significant decrease although it began to pick up again after June. The reduction is assumed to be due to estimation error for recyclable waste. A summer intern for Office of Sustainability had compared the recyclable weights of all buildings and discovered the similar reduction in weight estimation for card boards. That aside, there had not been any weight estimated for yard waste for 6 months. However there was an increase of municipal waste in FY2013. For paper recycling the waste had been constant over the past five years. Overall the ratio of recyclables to waste has improved.
 - Recycle Mania happened during the winter season this year and UIC's 2014 performance was unsatisfactory compared to the previous years. The main reason is because of the snowy winter season that impeded the recycling waste collection. The truck collection had been delayed by the brutal weather and therefore causing the reported collected recyclables to have a significant drop.
 - The recycling rate in student residence hall has improved over the past year but the rate is still below par compared to other buildings. It requires more improvement.
 - Joe suggested that the recycling awareness and education programs should be continued from last year for the entire UIC campus.
3. Summer Internship
 - Three students (Diana, Nina, and Alec) participated in the summer internships with Office of Sustainability. Among them Alec and Nina were involved mainly in the UIC lab glassware recycling project. Alec had organized a lab exchange among UIC

- labs for the glassware left behind by the retired professors. He has been promoting lab exchange in UIC to increase participation rate.
- The paper recycling rate in UIC hospitals has not been satisfactory. Joe and Diana had visited the hospital to investigate and found out that due to patient confidentiality issues, a vast majority of the paper products in the hospitals are handled by Citadel, the contracted shredding company for confidential materials, and subsequently recycled. Only a small portion of paper is not shredded.
 - Rhea, the recycling assistant for Joe, has been keeping track of the recycling rates of every single building in UIC.
4. Sustainability days
- UIC sustainability days happen in September every year. The two major events are Great Stuff Exchange (GSX) and campus electronic recycling. GSX encourages departments to empty their cabinets and give away old stuffs for others. It used to be done in spring and fall, but just recently changed to fall only. So far GSX has been receiving good responses from members of UIC. In September this year, it managed to clear a total of 250 boxes of give-away office supplies in less than two days. Campus electronic recycling on the other hand is carried out two days in a row in fall. Each day in a different side of campus. The challenge faced by most UIC departments now is that the cost of getting movers to collect the electronics in their office. Consequently many departments have been accumulating the recyclables in their office instead of recycling them immediately.
5. Bid for Waste Transfer Station
6. UIC has been using a waste transfer system for the last 5 years that recovers recyclable materials from the waste and provides a report on the recycled waste. This year we are going to include language in the bid. Big Belly
- The placement of Big Belly trash compactors and recycling bins is a Green Fee funded project, requested by students from Eco-campus student organization. Big Belly trash bins are basically solar powered waste compactors that can handle a huge volume of waste. Big Belly will be placed mostly in the East campus.
7. Others:
- There will be a campus waste audit on 10.28.14 (Tuesday) as required by Illinois state law. The audit will be performed in three locations: Student Center West, Science engineering laboratory on East Campus, and the hospital. Office of Sustainability is seeking volunteers to assist in the waste audit.
 - Next meeting will be in January or February next year.