

CCSE Recycling and Waste Management Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 16, 2014

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Location: College of Medicine Research Building (CMRB), Room 6075

Attendees:

Joe Iosbaker

Rich Anderson

Anthony McClellan

Cindy Klein-Banai

Ning Ai

Shelby Egan

Discussion/Things that have been established:

1. Updates on the status of recycling at UIC
 - a. Overall recycling rate at UIC is at about 46%. There has been a recent decline in weights in the months of March and April. A recent decline in the weight of cardboard being recycled led to interesting discussion on the reason behind this fluctuation. UIC also participated in Recyclemania, which is an 8-week competition between colleges and universities in North America related to the amount of trash and recycling occurring. UIC had good results, with total weights being slightly lower than previous years but also saw a significant increase in the per capita waste minimization metrics. The Office of Sustainability is also hosting the Great Stuff Exchange and the Campus Electronic Recycling Collection in the month of September. The Great Stuff Exchange allows the UIC community to drop off unwanted office supplies that are then redistributed to the UIC community for free. The Campus Electronic Recycling Collection offers the opportunity for the UIC community to drop off personal electronics.
2. Summer Sustainability Internship Program
 - a. The Office of Sustainability has recently launched the Summer Sustainability Internship Program, in which over twenty undergraduate students are gaining practical experience related to sustainability on campus. Of these interns, multiple interns are assisting with recycling on campus and in the hospital. One intern is assisting with the research of a potential Zero Waste Dorm Move-Out program.
3. Topics for the Fall 2014 semester
 - a. Potential expansion of the food scrap collection program
 - i. The Office of Sustainability is currently researching the possibility of expanding composting to events. There has also been discussion for the collection of food scraps at the hospital.

- b. EcoEducators (volunteers to assist with recycling, composting, waste diversion, etc.)
 - i. EcoEducators are student volunteers that work with the Office of Sustainability to ensure that events have proper recycling and waste management practices. Because volunteers are students, it can be a challenge to ensure that volunteers can attend all the needed events. The subcommittee discussed other incentives to encourage volunteers to participate, such as logging volunteer hours towards internship credits that are required of some programs. It is an effort of the subcommittee and the Office of Sustainability to try and retain student volunteers for events like BaconFest, Family Farmed, etc.
- c. Current composting in dining halls
 - i. Subcommittee discussed issues of cleanliness of the bins and docks. A meeting to determine who is responsible for the cleaning should be scheduled. The Office of Sustainability will discuss with peer institutions the issue of cleanliness at the Chicagoland Network for Sustainability in Higher Education meeting on 6/17.