

# **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 Purchasing Coordinator to facilitate and implement policy changes to reduce waste, 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 focuses on waste reduction from the procurement perspective. The person in the position needs to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the campus purchasing policies— from the items purchased on a daily basis to negotiations of campus-wide contracts, from cleaning products to preferred vendor agreements. There needs to be communication and coordination amongst all campus entities to minimize wasteful items being purchased and reduce environmental impact 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 the Green Office Certificate Program. But each project was done in isolation, without a long-term plan to build on successes and change the culture over time. The events identified the requirement for waste managers to coordinate with product purchases in order to optimize waste reduction efforts. A Purchasing Coordinator, working with a Zero Waste Coordinator, would provide stability to such initiatives and provide a consistent vision to move the university towards its iCAP goals.**

Connection to iCAP Goals (a few sentences):

**A knowledgeable Purchasing Coordinator would tie into several strategies listed in the 2010 iCAP. Those strategies include:**

- 1. Make purchasing entities responsible for costs of disposal of the products being consumed**
- 2. Use carbon and other environmental indicators for purchasing to avoid environmentally irresponsible products and corporations**
- 3. Set and enforce minimum recycled content standards**
- 4. Work for legislation to enable the resale of campus goods to the general public**

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):

**OBFS is the suggested unit for implementation although it could also be placed in ISEE.**

**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 agree with the recommendation as stated.
Marcy Wright	I approve this recommendation. I suggest that this position fall under the OBFS umbrella as the person will need to have knowledge of contracts and access to reports with regard to the types of purchases being made by campus units.
Dilip Chhajad	I approve of this recommendation.
Warren Lavey	OK for me.
Elizabeth Shancer	I agree with the recommendation as stated.
Karin Hodgkin Jones	I recommend they move forward as written. The purchasing coordinator will be a needed resource to help departments make informed and responsible purchases.

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 waste management 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.**