

iCAP Working Group

August 28, 2015

Room 240 NSRC

10:00 am

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Welcome & Introductions

The Year in Review

The approved procedure for campus sustainability initiatives was reviewed. The procedure and infrastructure was put to the test last year with several recommendations from SWATeams and the 2015 Illinois Climate Action Plan. The 2015 iCAP was a lot of work and engaged more than 50 people. Work began in the spring of 2014 and was presented to the Sustainability Council in May 2015. The 2015 iCAP is currently pending Chancellor approval. It is a good, solid document which could not have happened so well without this group.

Last year the iWG received 12 recommendations from the SWATeams. Below is a summary of the status of each of the recommendations.

EGen001: Wind PPA – in progress

EGen002: Review of Utilities Master Plan – rejected by unit

ECons001: Conservation Budget – with the Chancellor's Office

Trans001: Data from TEM & DMI – with OBFS

Trans002: Parking Survey – postponed

Trans003: Active Transportation Coordinator – in progress

Trans004: Fleet Study – returned to iSEE

PWR001: Zero Waste Coordinator – returned to SWATeam to split in two recommendations

PWR002: Standard Recycling Signage – in progress

PWR003: Adequate Recycling Bins – in discussion

PWR004: Sustainable Purchasing Coordinator – with OBFS

PWR005: Zero Waste Coordinator – F&S looking for funding

Status of the 2015 iCAP

There was concern from upper administration about the language used to describe the "Objectives". The group reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to define "Objectives" and voted unanimously to accept. What if upper administration agreed to take out the word

'pursuing'? Would the iWG be okay with that? Yes, but if they make other substantial changes then it needs to come back to us.

The group was asked for advice on whether to seek approval from the Interim Chancellor or to wait for a permanent Chancellor. There were discussions regarding the pros and cons of each path, and the consensus was to move forward with the Interim Chancellor.

The iSEE communications staff were concerned about the length of the iCAP and suggested a shorter summary style document to reach more audiences. They prepared "The iCAP in a Nutshell", and we would like your review and comments of this document. Please send comments in the next week.

The Year Ahead

The iWG has some significant responsibilities for the coming year. The SWATeams will prepare evaluations on progress in their areas, and the IWG will review them for consistency and accuracy. The evaluations are due on September 30 and we will review them at our October 9 meeting. We are to present a summary report to campus on October 21. What does that look like? Last year the teams prepared power point slides, and a member of their team gave a brief presentation at the iCAP Forum.

Throughout the year we will have SWATeam recommendations to review and transmit.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, we are to conduct a study to determine the steps necessary to accelerate our efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 rather than 2050. The study will also include costs and benefits as well as impacts on our campus finances, the environment, and our reputation. How do we actually do this??

Do we ask the SWATeams to consider their topical areas and the iWG reviews the study?

Are there consultants out there who can do this? AEI prepared the report for Cornell, and MEP also does this.

Ben will send around the Cornell report, and Morgan will look into consultants.

The 2015 iCAP calls for several studies, such as a feasibility study for geothermal, or the fleet conversion study. How are we going to fund these studies? Do we advocate for recurring funding from campus? That is not a good idea right now.

Let's talk about the process.

How much do feasibility studies cost? The one for the anaerobic digester was \$80k, the one for solar on the north campus parking deck was 150K. How do we figure out what amount of money to ask for? We need to work on guidelines, criteria. Internal studies will cost less. What are the priorities? Impact on emissions? Do we want to advance on many fronts?

When asking for money, we will need a strong justification and the rationale for arriving at that amount of money.

What is scope, scale? Should we ask for a 1-time allocation? Can we get a recurring budget for studies? We don't have a recurring budget for campus sustainability.

Do we set a deadline for SWATeams to recommend feasibility studies? If we want money next fall, then we need to make the request in January or February. We should set a deadline for November. We should develop a pattern of predictability.

We need to provide guidelines for these recommendations, Morgan has offered to take a pass at this.

Review of SWATeam charge letter – Prepare annual evaluation of campus progress, develop and recommend specific actions, recommend feasibility studies, and play an active role in the 2035 study.

SWATeam kickoff and STARS party, September 2.

Community Conversation on Energy Conservation, October 20.

iCAP Forum, October 21

Thanks again!

Adjournment 11:30