

iCAP Working Group

July 29, 2014

2:30 pm room 358 NSRC

Present: Ben McCall, Nishant Makhijani, Morgan Johnston, Kevin Duff, Lowa Mwilambwe, Rob Fritz, Nancy O'Brien

Welcome from Ben McCall, chair of the iWG

Introductions:

Ben McCall, Chemistry Professor, joined the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) in December as Associate Director for Campus Sustainability, previously served as chair of campus senate operations committee. Drives an electric car, has solar panels and wind turbines at his home.

Rob Fritz, Facilities Manager at Beckman Institute, had been at Facilities & Services for 16 years, HVAC systems and controls. Drives an electric car, but no specific background in sustainability.

Nishant Makhijani, a senior in Civil & Environmental Engineering with focus on sustainable design, is a LEED Green Associate, member of USGBC, Student Sustainability Committee, works at iSEE. Representing the Student Sustainability Leadership Council. Relies heavily on MTD for transportation.

Nancy O'Brien, Professor, University Library, current chair of Senate Campus Operations Committee, at home, avid about recycling and re-using,

Morgan Johnston, Associate Director for Sustainability, at Facilities & Services, worked for Printing Services, then Transportation Demand Management, and now Sustainability, worked on wind turbine project.

Kevin Duff, Capital Programs, Landscape Architect, representing OBFS

Lowa Mwilambwe, Director, Illini Union, representing Student Affairs. Wants to lower bills in the Union, will do anything to be more sustainable. Recycles at home,

Overview of American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)- an agreement made by many campus presidents, our Chancellor signed this agreement in 2008. The agreement recognizes that:

- Global warming is largely caused by humans
- The need to achieve energy independence as quickly as possible
- Educational institutions are obligated to reduce emissions, education students, and to address critical challenges.

By signing the agreement, campuses pledge to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.

The Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) aims for carbon neutrality by 2050, and includes a number of explicit goals, interim targets, and strategies, submitted in 2010.

Our campus has met or is very close to meeting explicit targets at 2015 mark. Facilities & Services has done very well at reducing energy consumption through programs like Retrocommissioning.

Need broader participation, to encourage campus to consider sustainability in actions and decisions

Review of Charge and Process:

In June, the Chancellor approved a process for moving sustainability initiatives forward:

- Formation of 6 Sustainability Working Advisory Teams (SWATeams) – Energy Generation, Purchasing & Distribution; Energy Conservation & Building Standards, Water and Stormwater; Transportation; Purchasing, Waste & Recycling; Agriculture, Land Use, Food, & Sequestration. Each team consists of 2 faculty, 2 staff and 2 students.
 - o Charged with generating ideas for making campus more sustainable,
 - o They forward recommendations to Ben, medium and large items come to this group for evaluation, we might recommend a feasibility study, might go to a specific unit, or might form groups of faculty and students for studies
 - o Moderate scale recommendations would be decided by iCAP Working Group
 - o Large scale recommendations will go to the Sustainability Council – membership of the Sustainability Council is top level decision makers – big picture informed by this group
 - o SWAT teams are expected to solicit input from consultation groups, when expert opinions are needed, we should draw on that,
 - o Before now it has been mostly ad hoc, sometimes very challenging
 - o This group is an essential part of that framework
 - o What constitutes Large, medium scale??? This group can help to from the definition of these terms,
 - o Ben plans to be quite generous in sharing with this group
 - o Example of small things, it's hard to find out where to request recycle bins, fix a url on the website – we will work through the first few recommendations to get a feel for what needs to go up to chancellor level.
 - o Feasibility studies need money too....iSEE doesn't have a pot of money for this, identifying sources of funding might be part of the process
 - o Same process used for revision of the iCAP, SWAT team will develop proposals for particular sections of iCAP, submitted to iWG for synthesis, review, finally to SC.
 - o Composition of iWG
 - o iSEE staff – Stephanie will keep minutes and share them within 3 business days to review, and then make them publicly available
 - o iWG to coordinate the implementation of the SC recommendations

- **Questions, and discussion**
- 6 SWAT groups – are there other items, initiatives that we should be thinking about and incorporating –
 - o The No-net increase in space policy – could be ALUFS,
 - o Setting larger targets – carbon neutrality by 2050 – do we want to stick with that, other interim targets?
 - o 2010 iCAP is more of an aspirational plan
 - o Revision process will help develop a real plan of items that can be successfully implemented
 - o Climate action plans should include: (check the ACUPCC document)–
 - Although, STARS now wants separate plans for everything

Our charge does not include education, research and outreach, but we should consider whether we address this in our climate plan....

Some concern was expressed about a possible disagreement between the “no net growth” policy and the master plan, and that we need to achieve carbon neutrality in a realistic manner without hampering our education, and research missions

Space – Provost’s communication re: net zero growth; 2 policies for the Campus Administrative Manual: one on no net growth in space, one on no net increase in non renewable energy usage from capital projects

This group needs to discuss and decide whether to include education and research in new/revised plan – need more research on whether to do that or not – Madhu to develop education plan? Even a research plan?

Receipt and Review of SWATeam Recommendations

We have developed a draft cover sheet, template – Attachment

This template is one way for us to know how the whole team felt about the recommendation.

Wind PPA recommendation: - energy generation SWATeam used the template with attachment.

Does the cover sheet capture necessary elements needed for evaluation

- o Add rationale
- o Relationship to iCAP - what target does connect to,
- o Why do this
- o What challenges might be there – minefields, obstacles

Next, how will we handle these recommendations?

We should probably have a similar form for us to use

Reference number assigned by iSEE,

If we are considering several things at once maybe we should rank them – need to let SWATeams know when we are meeting so that they can get recommendations to us by a certain time. Then we could consider many at once and perhaps prioritize – rather than the trickle in and trickle out.

iCAP revision timeline gives us a roadmap for getting things reviewed

SWAT teams – soft deadline 2 weeks prior to iWG meeting

Deadlines for completing iCAP revision – to the Sustainability Council by December 31, 2014

What is process for communicating with SWATeam chairs – how about a monthly report?

On form, what is the date listed? Date of our assessment? at least that date, maybe both dates – recommendation received, and assessed.

Mode of Operation, Schedule monthly meetings.

Generally we will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1:30 – 3pm – August 28, September 25, October 30, November 20, December 4 and 18. [November and December dates are non-standard to account for holidays and iCAP revision deadline.]

Might need extra meetings to get revised iCAP to sustainability council

Agenda and minutes will be posted on-line

As we get into iCAP revisions, may need a box account

SWAT teams have some vacancies – do you have any recommendations for filling them.....

Grace Kyung for transportation.

Wind recommendation – Facilities and Services is in process of asking Prairieland Energy Inc (PEI) to issue a Request for Information (RFI) for getting wind power.

Timeline for this:

Rfi to go out August 15, replies by August 29 – include the cost of the premium compared to traditional. Can we encourage PEI to get information to us by the 28th rather than the 29th?

Likely to cost more, not likely more than 25% more. Ohio State University signed one 2 years ago for 46\$ per megawatt-hour

Additional information prior to our next meeting, iCAP working group would like that info

Ben will transmit request to F&S for this information....on behalf of iWG...

Adjourned 4 pm.