AGRICULTURE, LAND USE FOOD & SEQUESTRATION

An enthusiastic group of faculty and staff from ACES, University Housing, and Facilities & Services, partnering with eco-conscious students who are focused on assisting the U of I campus in meeting its lofty iCAP goals for sustainability.

OBJECTIVES

1. Perform a comprehensive assessment of GHG emissions from agricultural operations, and develop a plan to reduce them, by the end of FY16.

Status:
In progress

- Submitted a proposal for hiring and funding a research tech to quantify the GHG emissions of the university's South Farms.
- Formed a consultation group focused on implementation strategies.
- Next Steps: Work with that consultation group to develop a plan to assess and reduce the GHG emission on South Farms.

2. Design and maintain campus landscapes in a more sustainable manner; expand the specification of sustainable plantings in campus landscape standards, and develop and implement a tree care plan by FY16 and an integrated pest management program by FY17.

Status:
In Progress

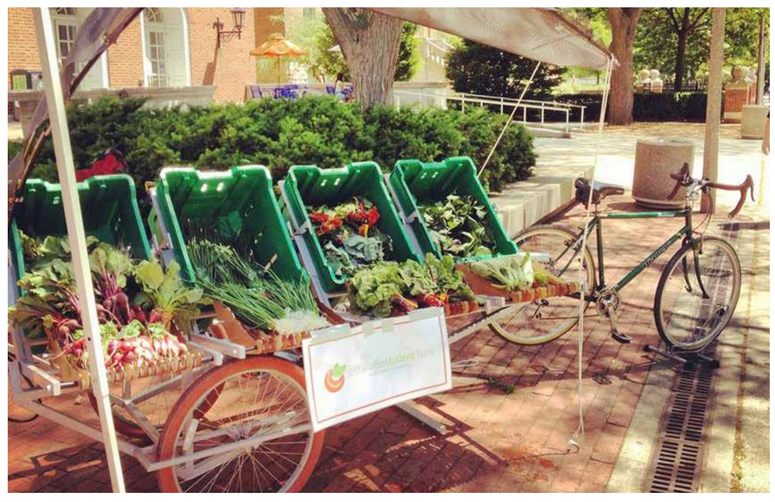
- Created a Pollinator Consultation Group to amend the approved plant list and guide for locations of plantings.
- Completed Tree Care Plan: **http://bit.ly/2dVsgQa**.
- New approved plant list will be released detailing more sustainable and non-invasive species planted on campus.
- Next Steps: Further meetings with Consultation Group.

3. Implement a project that examines the food service carbon footprint for Dining and other on-campus food vendors, while increasing local food procurement to 40% by FY25.

Status:
In Progress

Next Steps:

- Reach out to off-campus food vendors about calculating their food waste and buying local.
- Create page on the Housing Dining website detailing carbon impact of food.
- Educational fliers and signage as passive programming.



4. Increase carbon sequestration in campus soils by determining the sequestration value of existing plantings and identifying location for additional plantings, with a specific objective of converting at least 50 acres of U of I farmland to agroforestry by FY20.

Status:
In progress

- Explore opportunities for expanding current agroforestry holdings to achieve total of 50 acres.
- Assist with efforts for a campuswide tree survey to inventory existing tree stands and assess sequestration values.
- Next Step: Engage with Master Plan committee for areas to be converted.

5. Reduce nitrates in agricultural runoff and subsurface drainage by 50% from the FY15 baseline by FY22.

Status:
In Progress

- Delineated South Farms watershed to determine drainage outlet.
- Next Step: Working with graduate student(s) to sample runoff from South Farms for nitrate to establish a baseline.

6. Incorporate sustainability principles more fully into the Campus Master Plan.

Status:
In Progress

- Campus Master Plan has feedback suggestion.
- Next Step: Participating in further discussion and providing feedback.

TEAM MEMBERS

CHAIR

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