



# PURCHASING, WASTE & RECYCLING

This team is focused on how to best maintain and improve the University's purchasing, waste management, and recycling programs. The group will work to implement a Zero Waste movement (like that described in the iCAP), which will require an approach to resource management that will have bearing on purchasing, maximize recycling, minimize waste, reduce consumption, and ensure that products are made to be reused, repaired, or recycled back into the system. This system will reduce greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption associated with extracting, processing, and transporting raw materials and waste — and by reducing the need for landfills.

## OBJECTIVES

**6.1. By FY17, environmental standards will be applied to purchases of office paper, cleaning products, computers, other electronics, and freight/package delivery services. At least 50% of purchases in these categories will meet standards by FY20 and 75% by FY25.**

Status: In progress

- The main problem is that nothing is currently mandated. There are problems with reporting what is being purchased and with tracking purchases. The campus needs to better understand what initiatives are being taken by Purchasing.
- The University is supposed to consider an Environmentally Preferred Purchaser, but is not following through with this title.
- The U of I should shift purchasing policies into the Campus Administrative Manual from the University level.
- The PWR SWATeam wants to eliminate options that do not promote sustainability from purchasing website.

Next Step:

- Make a recommendation for a campuswide policy mandating a minimum of 30% recycled content for all paper purchases.

**6.3. Utilize landfills with methane capture.**

Status: Complete!

- Former SWATeam member Karin Hodgins Jones conducted study investigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from local landfills. The study identified the auxiliary campus buildings contracting independent hauling vendors, estimated waste volumes produced by these facilities, and presented a methodology that may be used to correct campus reporting on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with landfill use.
- Identified three auxiliary buildings not previously in Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) reports: Biel-feldt Athletics Administration Building, Atkins Tennis Center, and Illini Union. Estimates for waste volume and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were provided for these buildings in Jones' report.

Next Steps:

- Make recommendation to campus buildings to continue or begin contract with vendors that haul to Brickyard Landfill, a disposal center in Danville, IL, whose methane capture strategy produces less CO<sub>2</sub> than other landfill options.
- More thorough reporting on real and seasonally adjusted estimates of waste volumes from auxiliary buildings is needed to better estimate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the next iCAP revision.

**6.2. Reduce municipal solid waste (MSW) going to landfills. Increase the diversion rate of MSW to 45% by FY20, 60% by FY25, and 80% by FY35, while also increasing the total diversion rate of campus waste to 90% by FY20 and 95% by FY 25.**

Status: In progress

- Finished survey in Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory (NCEL) and got results back.
- Additional indoor recycling bins will need to be carefully considered, in conjunction with the Building Service Workers (BSWs) staffing levels.
- Can campus expand types of materials to be recycled, keeping in mind that it might generate more waste in recycling bins?

Next Steps:

- Develop strategies to enhance understanding of recycling on campus.
- Make a recommendation to proceed with outdoor dual bins on the Quad and across campus.
- Put more recycling bins in NCEL.
- Get campus to expand the type of accepted recycled materials on campus and at public events.
- Recommend that campus hire more BSWs to empty recycling & trash bins.
- Make recommendation for a one-year pilot program for battery recycling; consider charging for a certain amount of batteries; encourage the use of rechargeable batteries.
- Improve tailgating waste recycling; have someone collect waste; have a zero-waste football game; invite Division of Intercollegiate Athletics to talk about tailgating efforts.
- Increase sustainability and reduce waste from catering at Marching Illini events.
- Creatively seek additional opportunities to decrease consumption and waste — and increase recycling — across campus.

**6.4. Appropriately staff Zero Waste efforts through the hiring of a full-time Zero Waste Coordinator.**

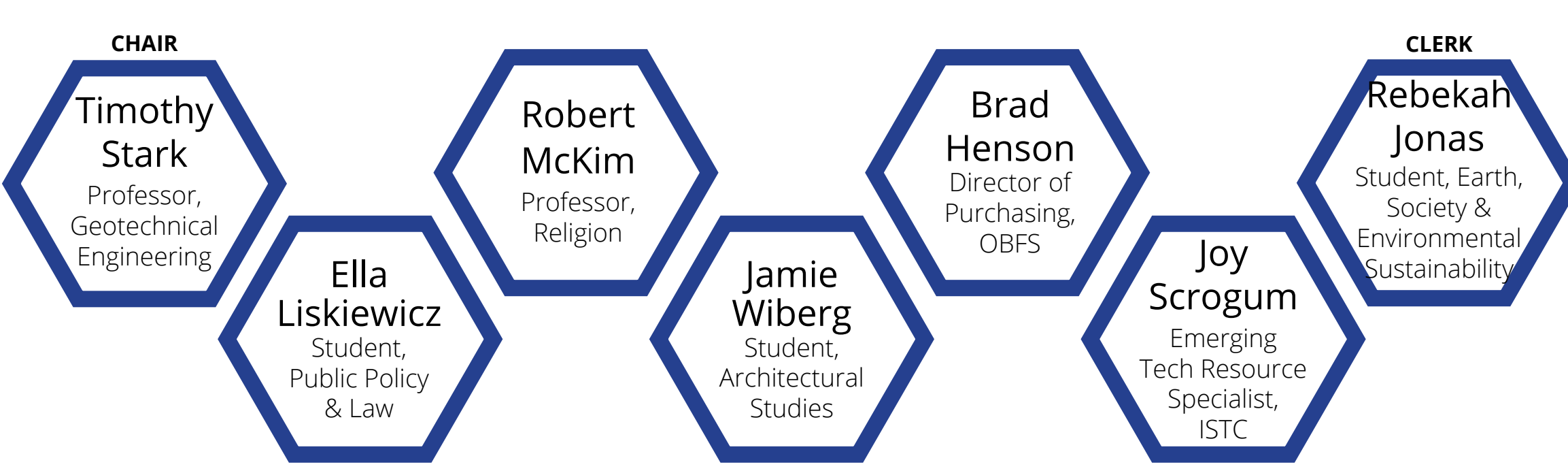
Status: In progress

Next Step:

- Zero Waste Coordinator positions have been established full time in the Office of Business and Financial Services (OBFS) and part time for Facilities & Services.
- Continue the push to fund a full-time Zero Waste Coordinator in F&S.



## TEAM MEMBERS



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank former team member Warren Lavey, Adjunct Professor of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; Marya Ryan, Facilities & Services part-time Zero Waste Coordinator; and the entire F&S and Office of Business and Financial Services (OBFS) teams.