

Green Initiatives
Table Topic Discussion
Tuesday, June 23, 2009

Table Attendees

Heather Doty, Tasha Polluck, Chip Morrison, Kenyetta Thompson, Mellessa Miller, Price Dickson, N. Garrett Minor, Joy R. Stout, William Porter (facilitator), Calvin Strong (facilitator)

Introductions – Table participants introduced themselves.

Recycling:

- University is pledging to recycle
- Partnership with city and park commissions
 - Help the university identify the right vehicle for recycling
 - Help to design a process for collection of recycle program materials
- What is recycled on campus?
 - Paper, cardboard, plastic, bottles, keys and various metal, cans, glass from chemistry building. (Heather Doty mentioned desire for engineering tech. dept. to recycle glass)
 - There are 50 containers on campus
- Barry Brazzell coordinates campus recycling and is the only employee whose job is solely dedicated to recycling.
 - SCR (not SFC) handles campus pick-up and recycling of cans and bottles. They are located on Farris View.
 - Memphis Recycling handles pick-up and recycling of paper and cardboard.
- There are several cardboard recycling containers on campus
 - Field House, Art bldg, Library, Engineering, and South Campus
- All landscape waste (leaves, grass, tree limbs, etc.) is taken to Meeman Farms.
 - The university sends approx. 600-1,000 lbs/year
- The University does not recycle for income, although its recycling efforts do generate a modest amount of revenue.
 - Dr. William Porter - There is a net cost to recycle so the University must prioritize its recycling efforts.
- Compost site has not yet been studied. It is known that we have limited site locations for a compost site.
 - This will be investigated by the new Sustainability Coordinator
 - Recommendation: Campus Day School students will learn about composting.

Tiger Initiative for Gardening in Urban Settings (TIGUrS)

- There are several urban “green” gardens located on campus
 - East side of Field House; north side of Hayden Hall; southwest corner of Jones hall, 2 gardens on the west side of Clement. (a third garden on the east side was destroyed by chipmunks and no longer exists.)
- This initiative was spearheaded by Karyl Buddington

- The TIGUrS committee meetings are held every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in 214 Physical Plant bldg. and are open to anyone.
- Need: A campaign to create more awareness about the gardens and the nutritional benefits.

Sustainability Coordinator:

- The new Sustainability Coordinator will:
 - Help to create awareness, visibility and an increased volume of usage for green/sustainability efforts on campus
 - Identify where additional recycling containers should be placed for greater usage
 - Evaluate whether to have inside or outside bins, or both
 - Help to improve weaknesses in student involvement in green initiatives

Energy

- There has been concerns about the wasting of energy in campus buildings (ex. Browning Hall lights left on)
- Idea – Establish “Energy Representatives” in each building to ensure preservation of energy
- The current awareness campaign includes posters, door hangers, stickers and motion sensory lighting
 - Security issues – The University must make sure that there is adequate lighting for security purposes
- There is \$140 million in deferred maintenance.
 - 55% of this is air conditioning problems
 - The university has a limited budget and cannot do it all.

General Discussion:

- Recyclable cups in dining services are not as effective as hoped. Students often throw the cups away.
 - Dr. Porter will share this with Aramark
 - Suggestion – use compostable cups
- How can we educate motorists about bike lanes?

Announcements

- There will be two fall events:
 - Tiger Blue Turns Green: Sustainable Technologies Awareness Day will be held Tuesday, October 6, 2009
 - Student Health Fair will be held October 7, 2009
- The University will purchase 7 electric pick-up trucks
- A total of 7 bike racks are currently being installed for use beginning fall semester