

UNH Energy Task Force Meeting

10/11/15 9AM-10:3AM

Dimond 537

Notes

Updates/Discussion on Key Initiatives

Waste Minimization (15) – Steve, Sue

- Recap: last year, partly based on suggestions from a waste audit conducted by the Post Landfill Action Network, and previous work by this group, SI and Campus Planning worked together to develop and disseminate outreach and cohesive communications to educate campus users about single stream recycling (what to recycle, what to landfill). Developed stickers for waste receptacles, posters.
- Phase 1 was dumpsters (Nov- Dec 2014)
- Phase 2 indoor containers office receptacles (spring)
- Phase 3- beginning now outdoor containers
 - Vinyl stickers have arrived
 - Hope to get done by Nov. 1
- Single stream recycling data- not going in right direction; no real improvement in 2015 recycling numbers over 2014: average 30% (would like that to be above 50%). In addition to single stream recycling, we track:
 - Grease trap
 - E-waste recycle
 - Metal recycling
 - Confidential (shredded) documents
 - Not metal recycle and tire up at garage
- Grounds Department repainted all receptacles
- Need to collaborate with students to get word out/ educate/ advertise
- SI hiring **interns**: communications on waste, energy, food; these could be people that work to help with outreach
 - Go out and observe behavior or janitorial process with recycling
- Housekeeping sorting materials; education on their part; monitored to a point
- Special events: (weekends, evenings, single large events)
 - Focus on day-to-day events
 - Maybe interns could help with larger special events with large volume groups
 - Can we tackle this better with a working group.
- Outreach about putting material in and in the correct place.
- Example of specific event= Trash to Treasure
- Working groups/ focus groups/ coordinators

- SI finding models/ examples of successful work group on leading change in behavior
- Swarm/ work group/ coordinators
- Athletic facilities tie in → yes
- Dining tie-in!
- Composting
- Advancement events group
- More marketing around this... you come to UNH and recycle
 - Throw Back Thursday to recycling.
- Transit interns? Educational campaign
- Sell it on cleanliness of campus; campus pride; shame students into it only at 25%, compare to competitor
- Website to go to for connecting to signage: xxxxxx?
- **Working group (Sue, Steve, Jenn, others?): At next meeting present a proposal for a more coordinated, sustainable campus-wide approach to coordinating waste minimization efforts.** (two months to research best practices, further establish current state of UNH efforts, etc.)

Renewable Energy Purchasing (15) – Adam, Clay, Jenn

- 2 forms:
 - landfill gas part of Co-gen
 - doesn't reduce our carbon footprint currently, because we sell the Renewable Energy Credits
 - Landfill gas flows diminishing; adjustment of amount to co-gen plant and now using some natural gas
 - early this year added small hydroelectric power to the power portfolio through group net metering with in hydro plant in Antrim (Steele Mill)
 - small accounts on campus connected to hydro power
 - collaboration; UNH buys all of their power → selling to Eversource at higher rate and UNH gets for a little less per kilowatt hour. Win/win
 - Low visibility on campus
 - Get students out to hydro station
 - Interns photos/ video
 - Need ongoing story!
- Now due to new contracts with utilities (12 month) staying with Eversource right now, working on other renewable energy
- Angles of renewable on campus
 - Hydro... additional small projects?!
 - Not really visible
 - No capital investment; just go out to bid

- Still get out that we are supporting renewable but can't claim greenhouse gas emission reductions
 - Hydro generators sell on real-time rate; not a great rate; time frame= 2-3 year contract
 - Meaning limited window on moving towards on more hydro due to pricing
 - Solar: PPA offsite
 - Offsite building and purchase; no capital cost to UNH and UNH purchase energy from them.
 - Something that doesn't exist now that would be made happen by UNH
 - Something off campus tied to Eversource grid
 - Solar: PPA onsite (not core campus)
 - Group net metering with self; store on grid and buy back to self
 - Solar: UNH owned onsite
 - Net metering with self on campus have to ramp down wind turbine
 - Simply less efficient for other renewables part of UNH energy system
 - location taxes and regulations, permitting, logistics of on campus location
 - parking lots, near farm in Madbury
- Marketing of what we are doing towards renewable
 - Education, marketing, continual story
 - How do we keep it simple and visible especially for the single visitors
 - Supporting local industry
- Tax credit may be irrelevant in solar soon enough; so UNH-owned and purchased could be really good. People are already adjusting to tax credit going away...
- Discussion on portfolio of options and timeline of ideas
 - Hydro already exists; if we went solar, we'd be adding to the growth
 - Grid level storage – micro grids etc excitement for grant possibilities

Campus energy and utilities office will further investigate small hydro as an interim option, solar as a longer-term option

Climate Adaptation (10) – Cameron, Jenn

- Extreme weather events: floods! More rain fewer events; More heat/ high heat
- How do we better prepare?
- Good news is we are going to have fresh water but too much of it in intense addition
- What are the effects on public health?
 - Some campuses are acting as community cooling centers

- How will floods affect campus and disruption to energy
- Vector born disease; lyme disease; under reporting of these numbers, but how will climate change affect these diseases and spread and numbers
- Psychological impacts from these events and especially the most vulnerable; how will this affect our students
- Sea Level rise: transportation routes will be effected
- What of these issues are important to campus?
 - Second Nature climate commitments by President Huddleston→ committed to having a vulnerability assessment of campus and adaptation plan for campus and including community.
 - Operational costs?
 - Assessment identify vulnerabilities / vulnerable areas on campus and campus beyond
 - Assessment is a continual system; re-assess each year.
 - Lowest cost but long term long benefit
- **Working group: Matt O’Keefe, Cameron, Jenn , others?**
 - **Vulnerability assessment→ What is our approach? Come to December meeting with a recommendation/overview**
 - We need operational connection

Campus-wide behavior change and awareness raising: Tom and Jenn and Tat(?)

- Serious way to tackle this!
 - Social scientist, psychologists, community; how do we go about this?
 - High level approach what do we want to recommend? Education, marketing, all of the above
 - 1.) What is our objective? What type of awareness do we want to create?
 - 2.) What is the method?
 - 3.) What do we want to focus on?
- Who can we ask to join in and help?

End of meeting updates on transportation

- Zip Car growing
- October data month
- Bike ped traffic: interns collecting data in October 1, 2015
- ID niche users
- Emergency energy back ups in transportation grant . Make transportation more resilient and adaptive

PUC grant date?! Clay follow up with Matt