

Minutes for Recycling Committee

October 3, 2007, 8:30 – 9:30 am

Members present: Andy Schnabel, Michelle Verges, Dave Vollrath, Albert Peiffer,
Deb Marr, Susan Thomas

1. Discussion of Recycling Committee Leadership

*** MICHELLE VERGES WILL SERVE AS CHAIR FOR 2007-08**

- Secretary duties will be rotated among members
- Minutes will be submitted to Ann Grens (Vice President of Academic Senate) and Henry Scott (Chair of Senate Facilities Committee). Michael Prater (Director of Facilities) is a member of the Recycling committee and the Senate Facilities Committee so communication between these groups will be accomplished via Prater and by sending minutes to the Chair of the Senate Facilities committee.

2007-08 members of the Recycling Committee include:

Faculty members: Deb Marr (Biology), Robert Pope (Biology) ,
Andy Schnabel (Biology), Susan Thomas (Librarian),
Michelle Verges (Psychology), Dave Vollrath (General Studies, Business)

Facilities members: Albert Peiffer (Custodian),
Michael Prater (Director of Facilities),
Karl Stetler (Manager of Custodial Services),
Marietta Tyks (Midnight Building Services Manager),
Matt Ward (Custodial Services General Supervisor)

2. Discussion of Goals for 2007-08

A. Higher visibility

- The Recycling program needs higher visibility on campus. It is not mentioned in the self-study, and need to encourage student participation. Ideas discussed were —
 1. Update IU Webpage and link to Senate Webpage
 - Robert Pope has information on how to update webpage
 - Susan Thomas will talk with Scott Opasik and Rosanne Cordell about maintaining the webpage and linking to the Senate webpage
 2. Send note to Lobby Bulletin Board encourage interested students, staff, and faculty to join the committee (or send comments/ideas)
 3. Send out notices on schedule for Recycling drives of hard-bound books and Styrofoam
 - send notices to Secretaries in all units, Deans, Library
 - post recycling events on Campus Calendar
 - Place ads in Preface and Vision
 4. Submit article to student newspapers informing of recycling on campus
 - Michelle will talk with student interested in this issue about possible article
 5. Create FaceBook page to connect with students

2. Tentative schedule for Recycling Events

Book drive: November: Week of Nov. 26, 2007

May: Week of May 6, 2008

Need to call Enviroshred to arrange pick-ups

Send notice out to Secretaries and campus

(email and Bulletin Board)

Plastic bag and Styrofoam Drive: Week of April 7

- this will lead up to April 12th Sustainable Communities Event

- need more discussion of how handle collections

Phonebook Drive: week of May 19, 2008

- Call Support Services to doublecheck if this date matches when new phonebooks are delivered. Also, ask if possible to deliver fewer phonebooks to each unit (only deliver number of phonebooks requested by each unit)?

- Need to call HIMCO to arrange pick-up of full Gaylord at Associates building

3. Other issues discussed

A. Need to simplify printer cartridge recycling program

- cannot accept Laser cartridges anymore because programs are being eliminated that accept laser cartridges from different types of printers. All laser printer cartridges come with individual recycling options, so staff and faculty need to save these boxes and mail labels to send in their laser cartridges. Units need to be notified of this change in policy.

- Several inkjet cartridge programs have stopped programs due to increase in postage costs. Andy was trying to keep up with 3 different companies, but each has different requirements, so becoming too complicated to manage. Andy proposed using a single company that accepts inkjet cartridges and distribute these envelopes (or collection boxes) on campus.

- Andy will work on this.

B. Recycling in Residence halls

- Albert will ask Michael Prater what plans are being made for recycling in the student apartments

C. Dining Services

- Michelle Verges will meet with Steve Rose (Director of Dining Services) to discuss possibilities of using biodegradable plates and bowls AND offering incentives to use reuseable mugs

- Initial contact suggested that one barrier to switching is price (Styrofoam is half the price of biodegradable options). The committee is looking to get more information on cost and research alternatives.

D. IT requested 11 sets of recycling bins for computer classrooms

- Albert delivered all Slim Jim recycling containers that were available, but not enough

- Deb will look into prices of Slim Jim containers and other cheaper alternatives.

E. Suggestion to think beyond campus. For example, encourage a community recycling event (coordinate with Notre Dame) in encouraging residents to participate in Styrofoam Drive.

F. Report on Spring/Summer events

April Styrofoam Drive

We collected approximately 50% more molded styrofoam and 5 times more peanuts in 2007 compared to 2006. We needed a 15 ft. rental truck this year (last year managed to fit everything in a 10 ft truck).

The totals are 2,000 gallons of molded styrofoam
(taken to SCA Packaging in Michigan City, IN)

780 gallons of peanuts

(2 bags were given to the Arts department, and 24 bags were taken to UPS)

SCA Packaging was particularly appreciative of our efforts (and they recognized some of their products among the sea of styrofoam).

New partnership with IT to recycle more types of electronic media and small electronics

The recycling committee and IT have started a GreenDisk recycling program.

Bev Church is the contact person at IT for this project.

- Computer labs will have a GreenDisk recycling container in which all types of computer disks and small electronics (headphones, Ipods, rechargers) can be deposited for recycling. The company guarantees that the material will be recycled safely (not shipped to developing country where toxic metals are handled inappropriately). The Recycling committee will alternate with IT in paying for this service. One pack of 3 containers costs \$150. Each container can hold 70 lbs and the cost includes recycling of the materials and shipping.
- The Computer Science department is also looking into this program, and may start a program for their computer labs.
- Deb will follow-up to make sure this has been initiated. If so, we need to advertise this new service.