**11.16.2017**

**PWR SWATeam Agenda**

*National Soybean Research Center Room 358, 4pm*

**Attendance**

*Members*:Morgan White, Fangxing Liu, Ireland Flannery, Rebecca Laurent

*Guests*: Omer Capraz

**Minutes**

Minutes from 11/2 were approved.

**UPDATES**

**Rearrangement of Outdoor Bins -** *Fangxing Liu*

* General methodology: 2 bins placed by big buildings, 1 bin for smaller ones.
* With the new arrangement, about 33% of the existing bins were utilized

Morgan made the point that the goal is to move the bins away from doorways, an issue having to do with who is emptying the bins. The goal is for people to see bins as they are leaving buildings (instead of dropping it on the ground), or that people will wait until they are inside. More about where it makes sense than number. Will probably end up with fewer.

*Next Steps*: Once we have the map, we will take it to grounds staff for review. Then, Morgan will go to SSC for a “scope change” (the funding was originally for an old kind of bin, but we want new one).

**Guidelines for Arrangement of Indoor Bins**

*Next Steps:* Take the strategy that Joy outlined and see how it works in one of the buildings – the Hydrosystems Building may be a good one.

**DISCUSSION: BATTERY RECYCLING**

*Omer:* Working on sorting through ideas for recycling to suggest to the University – creating a proposal for what to recycle. Did some research on battery recycling in Urbana (where they collect all kinds of batteries) and other universities (such as Yale, where they only collect rechargeable batteries). Came to learn more about the University’s recycling system before budget cuts.

**History**

*Morgan:*

* SECS worked with Illini Union Board to offer battery recycling at the Union around 2009. They paid for recycling for single-use batteries. Their funding only for $700. When they ran out, the Union kept collecting batteries and took them to Urbana to be recycled. Urbana asked them to not continue doing this because the Urbana program is funded by tax dollars and the University is tax exempt.
* For a long time, the University recycled only rechargeable batteries through a free program called Call2Recycle. This was tracked and reported for some time, but a few years ago they found out that they weren’t required to be tracking the information. Because of budget constraints, they stopped collecting batteries as a central service and instead put info on iSEE website about how offices can get their own Call2Recycle box.
* We don’t currently know what departments might be doing that. Recently, Call2Recycle changed to no longer offer the service for free. Now you buy the container, fill it up, and send it back (any kind of batteries).

**Types of Batteries**

*Morgan*: Current understanding is that we are not required to recycle either type of battery.

*Omer:* This is correct. But the batteries are clearly harmful to environment (especially rechargeable ones).

*Morgan*: If campus were to find money to recycle batteries, would it be better to:

1. Pay more to do all batteries
2. Collect rechargeable and put alkaline in trash

*Fangxing:* Not sure what kind of batteries students are using or how many we would get from them. She mostly uses alkaline batteries and thinks it’s what most people have.

**Urbana**

*Omer:*

* In their peak year, they collected 10,000 pounds (included all types of batteries).
* Paying $10,000/yr.
* 5 drop off locations.

*Morgan:* City of Urbana has approximately the same emissions and diversion rate of campus - reasonable comparison. If we offer what they offer, might have similar amount.

**Campus Purchasing**

*Omer*: Another school takes dead batteries and recharges them for people.

*Morgan:* We could do something like this at campus F&S stores, where we buy things in bulk and deliver to offices who need them (run by Travis Mollitar).

*Tim:* Likes idea of recyclable batteries from purchasing. Good potential on departmental level – not student.

*Morgan:* Doesn’t know what the overhead is for campus stores to charge, stock and collect batteries and how that would add to the total cost of recycling them. Could be found out. Would have to see if stores could include cost of recycling in the cost of batteries charged to departments. If they’re not allowed to do it, maybe we should have recommendation that they should be allowed to do it. That was in first iCAP (including recycling cost in dispersal).

*Tim:* Campus would only need one bin at Purchasing that they could drop the dead batteries in.

*Fangxing*: If they tried to do what they did in the union before, people would probably put an assortment in there again.

*Morgan*: Mixed container, but no urgency to recycle alkaline. Could have someone go through them and throw them away.

*Omer*: Don’t want to mix single-use batteries in with rechargeable because it could cause a fire.

*Omer*: Hard for people to tell what kind of battery it is

**Next Steps:**

* Talk to Travis about trying to get this moving forward.
* The assessment that Omer produces should come to this team so that we can then choose to investigate something forward or to make a formal recommendation.