**Zero Waste Sustainability Working Advisory Team**

Date: Thursday, November 11

Location: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/85632688020?pwd=MEh1djh5RW5QYzhZa3pRU3lIT0lDUT09>

Time: 9-10 am

*Attendees: Tim Stark (faculty), Alexa Smith (student), Sarah Shoaff (student), Jenna Schaefer (student), Mike Olinger (staff), Aaron Finder (staff), Clara Bosak-Schroeder (faculty), Tim Knox (staff)*

*Absentees: Avery Maloto (staff), Sydney Trimble (student), Yuanhui Zhang (faculty), Shawn Patterson (staff)*

Agenda:

1. **Introduction to Evan Rea**
2. **Data Review**
   1. Plastic Water Bottle Data: <https://uofi.app.box.com/services/box_for_office_online/4881/882969603492/00ea58.16bb4264415d652e3af038ea9ef40342c24b4fe8d894d4ce668b1075753295e7?node_type=file>
   2. Data on Filling Stations
3. **Other University Initiatives**
   1. New Paltz State University Initiative: <https://www.newpaltz.edu/sustainability/view-programs-and-progress/beyond-plastics-initiative/case-study-from-plastic-bottles-to-aluminum-cans/>
      1. Policy Change at time of contract renewal
   2. Vanderbilt University: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainability/2019/08/university-eliminates-single-use-plastic-water-and-soda-bottles-in-operations-on-campus/>
      1. Led by Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) and Vanderbilt Student Government
      2. Funded partially by dining
   3. Augsburg University: <https://www.augsburg.edu/green/2018/02/15/efforts-by-other-institutions-to-reduce-bottled-water/>
   4. Allegheny University: <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1196481>
4. **Refining our Strategy (Roundtable Discussion)**
   1. Survey
   2. Educational Materials on Drinking Water Quality
      1. Taste-test competition
      2. Create and disseminate video series
      3. Report money savings for reusable options
   3. Banning Single-Use
      1. Is it impossible?
   4. Moving the Location of Vending Machines
5. **Future Recommendations on the Back Burner**
   1. Tracking Reusable Container System
   2. Students Against Fast Fashion
   3. Too Good To Go

Meeting Notes:

* **Guest Speaker: Evan Rea**
  + Quality Assurance Specialist -> Co-Interim Director of Health and Environmental Applications Laboratory
  + The lab works primarily with precipitation chemistry and organic nutrients in drinking water, but looking to engage more with the community and concentrate on drinking water education
* **Data Review**
  + Currently, the number and status of water filter stations are not tracked or monitored
    - *AS will ask Meredith/Morgan if there are other entities on campus that might already have access to this information/who could we delegate this responsibility to*
      * *CBS: Reaching out to building managers to assist in counting*
    - Potentially students could help to collect this data
    - MO volunteered to inventory drinking fountains in dining halls
    - ER volunteered to inventory drinking fountains in Prairie Research Institute
    - TS volunteered to inventory drinking fountains in Civil Engineering
  + For information related to plastic bottle consumption on campus, the data reveals that bottled soda is consumed far more than bottled water
    - CBS: This should warrant a change in the rhetoric of our recommendation
* **Other University Initiatives**
  + CBS: Although we have information on Vanderbilt and other universities, we don’t necessarily know the outcomes of these initiatives! Could be worth researching.
  + AS: Interestingly, one study demonstrated that freshman students tend to consume more plastic bottles than other demographics. We should look into this for our survey.
  + AF: Currently, the regional distributor of Coke products is not scaled to transition all of our plastic vending options to aluminum. Something to consider moving forward.
* **Next Steps**
  + TS: Retrofitting water stations that are not functioning correctly or installing more is an ultimate goal we should strive for.
  + **Two main recommendations:**
    - 1) Data collection on how many water filter stations are currently on campus, and the filter status of each of those.
      * ISEE Sustainability iCAP-Ambassador Experience course could be an avenue to make this happen
    - 2) Survey: with questions including...
      * Demographic information-year, age, gender, race, location
      * What is your preferred type of drinking water?
      * Why do you prefer this type of drinking water?
      * How would you describe the taste of tap water?
      * What problems are you most concerned about compromising the quality of your drinking water?
      * Do you have access to a reusable bottle?
      * If no, why is this the case?
      * Would you be willing to switch to reusable water bottles?

Action Items:

* Once I have written it up, review the draft of our survey recommendation, and add/revise any questions that you think would be pertinent to ask in our survey: <https://uofi.app.box.com/file/883799095594>
* Fill out when2meet for our next meeting: <https://www.when2meet.com/?13613197-Nv1yo>