iWG Meeting

November 19, 2021, 10:30 – 12 PM

Attendees: Morgan White, Ximing Cai, Caitlin Bloomer, Brian Bundren, Paul Redman, Qu Kim, Maria Maring, Derek Fultz, Marcus Jackson, John Dallesasse, Sandy Yoo, Meredith Moore

Guests:

1. Welcome
2. Recap of the Sustainability Sub-Council meeting
   1. Comprehensive energy plan (Energy007)
      1. Received positive feedback; expect Chancellor Jones to be supportive of funding a consultant to develop the plan
   2. Rainwater management and stormwater funding, e.g., Vet Med parking lot
      1. Next step: discuss with Parking, Utilities and Energy Services, Grounds, Vet Med, and ACES about the Vet Med parking lot and the related rainwater management.
   3. Divestment
      1. Students sent a letter to Chancellor urging him to send another letter to UIF, recognizing that Chancellor Jones cannot make the decision since it is system-level
   4. iCAP in Campus Strategic Plan
      1. This will not be brought to Council as a specific agenda item; further details need to be discussed first
   5. Goal to reach STARS Platinum
3. Sustainability Council agenda
   1. Expectations for council agenda
      1. Madhu, Ehab, and Chancellor’s office approve agenda before meeting
   2. Agenda
      1. Comprehensive Enery Planning Document
      2. Update on Vet Med parking lot and rainwater management challenges
      3. Green labs committee
      4. Campus priorities: how to achieve STARS platinum status and add sustainability component/iCAP in campus strategic plan
4. Updates on recommendations-in-progress from iCAP Teams
   1. Energy – *Andy Stumpf/Bill Rose*
      1. Energy Comprehensive Plan recommendation (Energy007)
         1. How can the energy goals and budget both be met and achieved?
      2. Brought to Sub-Council and it will also go to Sustainability Council – no official approval yet but we will get it likely at the Council meeting
      3. We need to figure out the precise scope and will need support/help to address this
      4. Working on a recommendation to address the 319 core buildings (main buildings in university district) to provide data, monthly utility usage, and major changes to building envelopes
      5. Energy models are needed and other diagnostic actions – potential recommendation to upgrade energy dashboard with a template of what is needed for each building, with some direction on what it is going to cost
         1. Considerable expense on compiling this information
      6. Estimated $5 – 10 million per year for retrocommissioning to reach goal, with additional cost for building envelopes
      7. Recommendations have major upfront price tags; future discussion is necessary to address where the money should come from
         1. iCAP teams can identify big issues, challenges, and projects, but teams can also contribute smaller scale recommendations to lead to more individual and more localized changes
         2. Individual buildings can participate in Revolving Loan Fund and build culture of buy-in for the sustainability initiatives
      8. These challenges and funding issues can be put on the agenda for a future iWG meeting with the energy team and any other invited individuals
   2. Transportation updates – *Tyler Swanson*
      1. Next meeting will be held on December 3
      2. Team is working on a recommendation to identify potential members for EV Task Force (likely will be submitted before winter break)
      3. Working Fleet Replacement Plan recommendation (likely will be submitted first few weeks of spring semester)
         1. Will include cost-benefit analysis and identification of hybrid vehicles that are cost-effective
      4. Sarthak Prasad is working on commuter program initiative
   3. Land and Water updates – *Mallory Mahen*
      1. Team is working on a recommendation to hire campus landscape ecologist in order to help achieve team’s iCAP goals
      2. Resilient landscape strategies recommendations to increase the workforce to tackle these sustainability issues
      3. Treating trees – South Quad may need some treatment or replacement, soil pH is not conducive for plants that are there
      4. Lab utensil sharing program
      5. Stormwater utility fee recommendation – buildings pay this but it is only enough for stormwater pipes, not detention pond or expansion or green infrastructure – expanding rate, not creating rate
         1. Parking Department has funds for grass/trees, not for pollinator pockets/rain gardens
         2. Utilities Department is responsible for handling stormwater – cheapest way is to send it downstream as quickly as possibly via stormwater pipes, bioswales/detention not in current scope
         3. Resilient Landscape Strategy gives overview of what would be included in infrastructure for rainwater
      6. Education updates – Mallory
         1. All Big 10 Green Career Fair – 70 companies attended an Ivy League Green Career Fair – recommended to career center and iSEE
            1. Career Services is supportive
            2. Development of event could be student led with guidance from related departments
         2. Graduate Certificate in Sustainability – primary agenda item for next meeting
      7. Resilience – Gina
         1. Stacy Gloss hired part-time to spearhead resilience objectives
         2. Vision Zero paper/outline posted on portal
         3. Green jobs inventory
         4. Biodiversity plan – Lisa Merrifield
            1. Approved this summer – looking to hire someone to also help with this project
         5. Environmental justice plan – report with current status on iCAP Portal
         6. No recommendation in the works
5. Roundtable discussion (each iWG member give an update)
   1. Brian Bundren/Paul Redman
      1. Focused on campus space management
      2. Kicking off committee next month to address mitigation strategies to offset demand for new space on campus, differed maintenance, ways that we can try and address campus net zero policy
      3. Looking at other strategies related to remote and hybrid work arrangements and what opportunities that has in gaining more efficiencies in the space that we have on campus
      4. What emergency precautions are in place for COVID?
         1. Air quality
         2. What can we do while maintaining health and safety?
         3. Company that will test air flow: simulate sneeze, track where the air particles land – will potentially be funded by SSC to help tell us about our filtration and cleaning of HVAC systems
   2. Derek Fultz
      1. Similar to what Brian discussed
      2. Balancing good campus culture – a lot of conversations with executive officers in units – how to be efficient with space
      3. New dean in LAS started in August
      4. Start planning ahead for HVAC improvements and end-of-life options – internal revolving loan fund (similar to $1 million Illini union RLF?)
   3. Maria Maring
      1. SSLC – drafted letter to Chancellor Jones talking about expressive action policy
      2. Divestment – collaborating with ISG to move forward
      3. Working on bylaws
      4. Thinking about Earth Day activities and facilitate widespread collaboration
   4. Caitlin Bloomer
      1. Illinois Green Fund is overseen by Student Sustainability Committee, working on potential increase to fees