

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University
Submitted 7/19/2007 to the
Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

Green Purchasing

Adopted more comprehensive Green Purchasing guidelines developed jointly by the Director of Procurement and the Campus Sustainability Committee

Continues to purchase 100% post-consumer recycled toilette tissue, 40% content paper towels, 100% content on roll towels

Continues purchase of recycled content paper stocks for campus

Increased usage of Green Seal “Peroxy” cleaner from 200 gallons in FY06 to 600 gallons in FY07, also reducing use of a neutral cleaner to only 200 gallons

Purchased and distributed 1,200 micro fiber cleaning towels eventually eliminating use of one-time disposable towels

Purchased and distributed 24 micro fiber dust mop heads to reduce dust during chalkboard cleaning

Continuing to replace folded hand towels in campus restroom facilities with Green Seal certified 100% recycle content roll paper towels

Testing 85% bio renewable foam hand cleansers in campus restrooms

Reduce Pollution and Waste

Participated in the National Recyclemania contest with over 175 other universities

Ran weekly ads in the WIU Courier to advertise and encourage participation in Recyclemania as well as to educate campus community about recycling.

University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) and the Director of University Marketing worked closely with student recycling advocates to promote the contest through self designed banners and other marketing means.

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University July 2007

Diverted 87 tons of recyclables which is an 18% diversion rate during the contest period excluding recycled metallic materials, construction waste, palettes, electronic equipment and other materials recycled during the same period.

Placed 26th out of 66 nationally in waste minimization with only 15 cumulative pounds of waste generated per person during the 10 week contest.

Placed 94 out of 175 nationally in cumulative pounds of recyclables per person during contest period

A pilot project using Building Service Workers to sort recyclables at the residence hall trash chutes concluded that the practice was not cost effective. As this past practice had previously resulted in high diversion rates when trash was still being incinerated, WIU wanted to compare sorting with voluntary recycling. It was decided that the University would emphasize education and marketing to enhance recycling diversion rates on campus as opposed to sorting of the waste stream.

An evaluation will be completed that could result in temporary processing of recyclables in Recyclemania 2008. This will allow WIU to compare economics of contracted processing services and self-delivered services as well as to participate in the targeted Recyclemania competitions in 2008.

Physical Plant contacted publishers and have reduced duplicate monthly professional journals in its offices from 46 separate journals to only 10 journals

WIU employed a Graduate Assistant to evaluate economics of using wind generated power at WIU. While early indications are that the geographic area may only be marginally economical for wind applications, WIU will continue to evaluate wind applications through its Utility Infrastructure Master Planning initiative this fall.

WIU Housing and Dining (UHDS), together with an environmental issues academic class at WIU and SODEXHO held a "Day of Change" event where dining hall patrons were exposed to biodegradable food containers and utensils in lieu of Styrofoam and plastic which have been utilized for the past 20 years. The additional costs of the biodegradable containers were shared with the students who were allowed to vote by placing a dry bean into a jar to either show support "for" or "against" the biodegradable option.

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University July 2007

The students overwhelmingly chose the biodegradable option at a voting ratio in excess of 100 “for” to “1” against. Accordingly, a change to the biodegradable container has been adopted by UHDS and will be implemented by SODEXHO in the fall 2007 semester. This change is expected to reduce land-filled Styrofoam and plastic containers and utensils in the WIU waste stream by, 510,048 trays, 267,904 cups, 163,968 plastic salad containers and 1,084,160 plastic utensils annually.

Other sustainable options with organic and sustainable foods, cage free eggs, and produce from local farms were market tested by SODEHO and UHDS during the Day of Change event. Given the responses received, SODEXHO is opening a new pilot food line in the dining facilities in fall 2007 that will feature sustainable food options.

SODEHO and UHDS conducted an “Environmental Triathlon”. The educational event featured a “Six-pack Ring Race”, to educate about number of animals that have been tangled in plastic six bag rings and proper disposal of the rings; a “Sorta-swim” to educate on endangered fish; and the “reCycle” to promote and educate on proper recycling practices.

WIU has purchased 3 new Toyota Prius Hybrid vehicles for the WIU rental fleet and is running E85 in all Ford Taurus Sedans making up the remainder of the sedan fleet

Evaluating purchase of two electric vehicles for campus maintenance applications pending State budget approval for FY08

Initiating a major Utility Infrastructure Master Plan for campus to evaluate state-of-the-art coal fired steam plant to increase efficiencies and reduce emissions relative to production capacities of the existing 83 old plant with 50+ year old coal and gas boilers. The master plan will also evaluate self-generation and economics of offsetting a percentage of the campus nominal peak electrical demand with renewable energy

Facilitating Green Building Practices

Secured Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant of \$249,820 for energy efficient lighting upgrades in Malpass library, Currens Hall and Waggoner Hall

Secured Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant of \$100,000 for design and implementation of LEED Silver design at the new WIU Multicultural Center

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University July 2007

Conducted a conductivity test for planned geo thermal heating and cooling installation for the WIU Quad Cities riverfront facility

Allocated at least 10% of Permanent Improvement funding to sustainable maintenance initiatives including installation of variable frequency drives on pump and fan motors and to replace inefficient heat exchanger tube bundles

Have installed LED exit signs at Western Hall

Researched and secured price quote for a compost production bin for campus landscape wastes. Plan to purchase in FY08 pending State budget approval for FY08

Have required EPA Energy Star certified vending machines for all campus refrigeration units resulting in 69 replacements since September 2006. WIU vending contracts also require all machines to be no older than 5 years to decrease energy use in remaining machines that are not EPA Energy Star rated (namely food and snack vending machines).

Physical Plant Building Services personnel replaced over 500 incandescent bulbs with mini twist compact florescent lamps, with plans to change out an additional 5,000 incandescent bulbs in the next few years

The scuba diver instructor in Kinesiology assisted Physical Plant in blocking off a drain in the Brophy Hall swimming pool so that the drain line and valves could be replaced without draining the pool. This resulted in preserving 290,000 gallons of potable water required to refill the pool, the additional chemical treatments needed when refilling the pool, plus the energy costs required to reheat the pool.

Completed one project using semi permeable pavestones to replace hard concrete located over the massive roots of a Catalpa tree on campus.

Installing permeable surface paving and turf reinforcement system (Grass-pave) in lieu of concrete in various areas beaten down by service vehicles and pedestrians

Continue to develop and expand Thompson natural prairie restoration

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University July 2007

Promoting Green-Friendly Policies

A multidisciplinary Sustainability Committee was formed in June 2006 to include broad interests of faculty, students and staff. The committee meets monthly to discuss progress of ongoing initiatives and introduction of new ones. The Sustainability Committee also reaches out to other campus committees with overlapping environmental interests such as the Campus Landscape Committee and the Master Planning Implementation Team.

WII has adopted Environmental Sustainability as the 2008 academic year campus theme. Accordingly, many extracurricular academic events as well as the First Year Experience for entering students will be integrated within the annual theme

Housing and Dining Services and the University President have consulted to enhance WIU emphasis on campus recycling at the orientation sessions for new students

WIU was represented at a "Greening of the Campus" informational booth during the Green Solutions Expo day at Monmouth College in April 2007 and has accepted an invitation to be represented at the 2008 event

WIU conducted a student contest to produce a recycling commercial to promote campus recycling efforts and to educate against contamination of recyclables. Contest winners were awarded I Pods by University Computer Support Services

WIU sent a large contingent to the AASHE conference at Arizona State and plan to send a large contingent to the Ball State environmental conference in October 2007

WIU will be sending a large contingent to the 2007 Sustainable University Symposium hosted by ISU and the Lt Governor's office

In March 2007 the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees adopted a comprehensive energy management program for the WIU campus, the primary initiatives of which focus on (1) Initiating capital projects that reduce energy consumption (2) Developing construction standards that promote energy efficiency and to attain at least LEED Silver ratings for new campus construction (3) Improve operational efficiencies in production and delivery of campus utilities (4) Educate the campus community on energy issues and to market the energy program

State Agency Report for Western Illinois University July 2007

Hosted over 200 students and guests for the annual Campus Environmental Summit with keynote speaker, Majora Carter, founder of “Greening the Ghetto” in New York City.

WIU joined the Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star Partnership

Signed the Lt. Governor’s Illinois Sustainability Compact

Named a “Sustainable Best Practices Institution” for the second year by the Illinois Board of Higher Education

A campus sustainability website is being created in fall 2007

Developing a list of academic classes with substantive sustainability content to be included on the website and for students in the First Year Experience

Sustainability Committee members attended a pre-concert environmental roundtable discussion with the national rock band, Guster. A member of Guster complimented the broad-based make up of the environmental efforts at WIU that included faculty, students and staff. They also noted the strong administrative leadership that was evident, noting that at many of their venues they only see students involved on the front lines of environmental awareness.

A Sustainability Committee member arranged three showings of “An Inconvenient Truth” then hosted a roundtable discussion with interested attendees having several members of the Sustainability Committee members present to lead and participate in discussions

WIU is developing a tree replacement policy that will emphasize quantities and locations of tree plantings consistent with the newly completed campus master plan as well as to focus on natives, and disease and drought resistant species

Building Services management to attend sustainability workshops and conferences in August 2007