

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023 @ 8:30 – 9:30am
Zoom

Attendees: Theresa Bechtel, Matthieu Biger, Erin Irish, Anna Peach, Steve Troester, Josie Welker

Absent: Jerry Anthony, Avery Epstein, Jeralyn Westercamp, Erin Weyers

Liaison: Stratis Giannakouros (OSE)

Ex Officio: Tony Senio

Staff: n/a

Guest: Blake Rupe (HELI)

1. Call to Order

Meeting started at 8:32am.

2. Announcements – Open to all present

None

3. Impromptu new business for this agenda – Open to all present

None

4. Liaison updates

Office of Sust. and the Environment: [Earth Day/Month](#) events, including “Earth Everyday” collaboration with [Public Space One \(PS1\)](#)

5. Open Discussion (e.g., endeavors, guests, member areas of interest)

Group had a brainstorming discussion, building on a digital sticky note board shared with all.

Topics includes:

- Bicycle storage
- Lab waste (e.g., chemistry dept., UIHC; with Objective would be for labs etc. to pass Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) audit. Bechtel and Welker contributed much to this item.
 - Giannakouros reminded all that UIHC is a member of [Practice Green Health](#), with training, best practices, and other resources available to all on UIowa campus.
- Re: Single-use plastics, Giannakouros confirmed that there is no campus-wide phasing-out of all such plastics, including due to a) aforementioned lab/hospital items b) contracts (e.g., “pour contracts” such as Coca Cola) UI Purchasing does not plan on amending.

It was noted that units across campus have started phasing out plastic bags and that there may be room for discussion on e.g., replacing some plastics with other more recyclable containers like aluminum cans.
- Recycling discussion reiterated that a) Facilities Management has a tried-and-true logic when it comes to “blue bin” placement in public spaces b) cross-contamination is number 1 issue c) current

42% recycling rate could, at most, reach 2020 goal of 60% but efforts to get those extra percentage points would be daunting.

➔ The matter of “high-impact low-cost” training closed this topic:

- Failed attempts – so far - to include more sustainability 101 at *OnIowa*
- Possible “Green Purchasing” short video targeting departmental/unit consumers
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): Answering question by Troester, Giannakouros said he was fairly sure Ulowa may be able to take advantage of some IRA project funding; though IRS rule-making was needed to be sure. If so, ad hoc projects may include:
 - Conversion pellet facility to fuel boilers while lowering transportation cost and emissions
 - Heat pumps for new/updated facilities

6. Next meetings: Monday, April 24, 2023 1:30 – 2:30pm; others TBD