

Environmental Committee
University Wide Standing Committee

Report of Accomplishments
2016-2017

Committee Members 2016-2017

Student Members

Erik Olson (Committee Co-Chair, Voting)
Wayland Hunter (MSSA, Voting)
Monica Warner (MSSA, Voting)
Sarah Hast (Subcommittee member, Non-Voting)
Taylor Heid (Subcommittee member, Non-Voting)
Shayli Kalmon (Subcommittee member, Non-Voting)

Staff and Faculty Members

Paul Prew (Committee Co-Chair and IFO Faculty Association, Voting)
Monika Antonelli (IFO Faculty Association, Voting)
Robyn Ceurvorst (IFO Faculty Association, Alternate)
Robert Sorensen (IFO Faculty Association, Alternate)
Louis Schwartzkopf (Voting as Emeriti Faculty Representative)
Jason McCue (Middle Mgmt. Association, Voting)
Medea Myhra (MAPE, Voting)
Gary Urban (MAPE, Alternate)
Matthew Carlson (MSUAASF, Voting)
Karen Anderson (MSUAASF, Alternate)
Craig Rasmussen (AFSCME Local 638, Voting)
David Cowan (Facilities Management, Non-Voting)
Paul Corcoran (Facilities Management, Non-Voting)
Beth Rorvig, Committee Secretary (Building Services, Non-Voting)

Committee Faculty Co-Chair Summary

The Environmental Committee is a pivotal locus for the promotion, initiation, and support of campus ecological sustainability projects. The Committee's work includes creating innovative sustainability strategies such as those included in the Climate Action Plan, but also includes supporting the "big ideas" across campus that improve sustainability, such as the Public Building Energy Efficiency Enhancement Program.

While the Environmental Committee is very productive, we recognize the accomplishments of others around campus to improve ecological sustainability. Facilities Management under Ron Fields, a long serving attendee of the Committee, initiated the Public Building Energy Efficiency Enhancement Program (PBEEEP). Another campus improvement, the installation of water bottle filling stations across campus, has reduced the purchase of vending machine beverages in plastic bottles. The incorporation of composting infrastructure in the new dining center is responsible for a very significant improvement in campus sustainability. As a result, the University reduced solid waste dramatically, saving the cost of waste hauling, but also reducing the University's ecological footprint. All of the sustainability initiatives demonstrate the environmental mindfulness that permeates the campus and overlaps with the mission of the Committee.

The Environmental Committee sponsors and monitors an ever-growing number of initiatives: The Climate Action Plan including the Carbon Footprint Update and Guaranteed Energy Savings Plan (GESP), Recyclemania, and the Commuter Survey. We also have many new activities developed by the Committee and its members.

This year, we experienced a dramatic expansion of student-led initiatives. The Stadium Heights Recycling Initiative is designed to facilitate greater recycling in off-campus student housing through education. Students originated the Bee Friendly Campus initiative to facilitate pollinator-bee populations on campus. McElroy Community Advisors (CA's) designed an environmentally minded event called "RE-MAC-YCLE" where student Committee members and the chair of the Environmental Committee judged a contest to culminate the educational event.

The Committee generated other educational initiatives such as the creation of a Learning Community focused on sustainability initiatives. Committee members organized Earth Day activities focused on campus clean-up. Members of the Committee are also investigating the potential of becoming a "Bike Friendly University."

A significant structural accomplishment, the Environmental Committee developed more active subcommittees. During this academic year, we began with the existing Climate Action Plan subcommittee to monitor and promote sustainability on campus. In the past, an active group of volunteers organized Recyclemania, a yearly recycling contest among college campuses, but we created a specific subcommittee to oversee the efforts this year. The Committee celebrated Earth Day in the past, but we formalized preparation for the event with its own subcommittee. To help facilitate a clearer communication strategy, we created a Marketing subcommittee charged with creating an enduring wordmark and flyer. Over the academic year, student led initiatives and other Committee member projects led to two more subcommittees, the Bee Friendly Campus,

already mentioned, and Bike Friendly University to promote alternatives to automobile transportation.

The Environmental Committee, as an entirely volunteer-run committee, has an impressive list of accomplishments for such a small number of individuals and a completely donation driven budget (approximately \$500 in income per year since 2014). We can boast a more imposing resume of speakers, activities, cost-saving measures, big ideas, and real world thinking than other committees with far greater endowments. I am proud of our Committee and the work of its members and associated departments. They certainly embody the spirit of sustainability and Maverick pride in their institution.

What is to follow is our summary of accomplishments for the 2016-2017 academic year. Please also refer to our Climate Action Plan Summary Report for a more detailed list of the Committee's accomplishments.

Sincerely,
Paul Prew
Co-Chair, Environmental Committee

Subcommittees

This year, we formalized our subcommittees, and they were incredibly productive. Below is a brief description of each subcommittee.

Climate Action Plan & Rollout Subcommittee

This subcommittee is responsible for supervising the Climate Action Plan, developing promotional materials and events associated with aspects of the plan and significant milestones. The subcommittee also prepares yearly progress reports of the sustainability-related activities on-campus, including the GESP.

Recyclemania Subcommittee

Recyclemania is a nationwide contest judging recycling efforts on campus in a variety of categories. This subcommittee is responsible for supervising the execution of the Recyclemania contest which includes preparation, data collection, publicity, and identifying volunteers for the “Game Day” basketball event.

Marketing Subcommittee

The Environmental Committee is attempting to develop a consistent brand and message for communicating the tasks, events, and accomplishments of the Committee. The Environmental Committee will use the consistent brand in all marketing materials related to Committee activities. The Marketing subcommittee works closely with Media Relations to develop the Committee brand and facilitate marketing of the Committee’s message.

Earth Day Subcommittee

Earth Day is a yearly event in April to promote sustainable living on the planet. Since Earth Day typically arrives very near the end of the academic year, the Earth Day events may span the month of April to better facilitate promoting sustainability on campus. The Earth Day subcommittee determines the nature of the Committee’s events to be planned for the month of April, and can be very creative in the range of activities possible.

Bee Friendly Campus Subcommittee

The Bee Friendly Campus initiative is designed to incorporate elements of the Campus Sustainability Plan 2010-2035 by devoting land space to the natural landscape (Land Use, Goal 5; Green Campus, Goal 2). The subcommittee endeavors to establish native pollinator species to facilitate bee habitats.

Bike Friendly University Subcommittee

The Bike Friendly University initiative attempts to improve alternatives to automobile transportation by promoting bike use on campus.

Funding

The Environmental Committee operates entirely on donations and occasional university allocations. Its accomplishments are carried out through the effort of its members and volunteers. Recently, we have benefitted from the generosity of Barnes and Noble. Last year, Barnes and Noble provided a donation of \$500 to the Environmental Committee budget. Since the 2013-14 academic year, Barnes and Noble donated \$2,000 to the Committee, in total. We greatly appreciate the ongoing relationship. *Written by Paul Prew*

Accomplishments

Climate Action Plan

1. Reporting

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is *the* definitive sustainability mechanism for Minnesota State University, Mankato. The plan is the origin of “big ideas” for real world sustainability applications on campus, and monitors all sustainability-related actions initiated inside, and outside, of the Environmental Committee. The CAP subcommittee collected the reporting by responsible persons on the CAP progress in 2015-2016 and wrote a first-year progress report. As reported, a major success for the university’s sustainability efforts was the implementation of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Plan (GESP). The University switched out fluorescent lights across campus for LEDs, and made upgrades to the central power plant. The campus will experience some effects of these changes in the FY 2017 carbon footprint update, but we will not benefit from the full effect of the GESP until FY 2018. Individuals on the CAP subcommittee are Karen Anderson, Bob Sorenson, Paul Prew, and Louis Schwartzkopf. *Written by Louis Schwartzkopf*

Buildings and Energy: Carbon Footprint Monitoring

2. Carbon Footprint Update

The Environmental Committee completed updates for all years through FY 2016 and compiled a report on the baseline and updates. A major finding of the report is that the University’s carbon footprint decreased by 6.8% from the FY 2012 baseline year through FY 2016. This is close to the goal of a 2% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per year from the baseline year stated in the Climate Action Plan. A principal contribution to the decline was a 4.4% drop in emissions from the Public Buildings Enhanced Energy Efficiency Program (PBEEEP) in 2012-2013.

Written by Louis Schwartzkopf

Transportation: Commuting, Bus Ridership, and Bicycles

3. Commuter Survey

MNSU-Mankato experienced a drop in commuting emissions of 13.4% over a four-year period due to more students walking to campus rather than driving, or not commuting at all. The Environmental Committee sent the commuter survey to the campus community again this spring. We will use the results of the survey in the FY 2017 carbon footprint update. Individuals who worked on the report and the commuter survey are Louis Schwartzkopf, Gary Urban, and Ron Fields. *Written by Louis Schwartzkopf*

4. Bus Ridership

The Environmental Committee also monitors bus ridership through the CAP. Bus ridership in 2015-2016 continued the growth trend it has shown since the inception of the “ride free with Mavcard ID” program, paid for by the Green Transportation Fee, in 2012-2013. In 2011-2012, just before the program was instituted, ridership was 198,616. In 2012-2013, it grew to 353,887; then to 401,608 in 2013-2014, 468,030 in 2014-2015, and 493,356 in 2015-2016, a 148% increase from its pre-program value. There are some signs that ridership may be leveling off; in 2016-2017, it decreased slightly by about 2% to 481,987. *Information from David Cowan*

5. Bike Friendly University

Richard Keir, community Bicycle League member, presented in April 2017 to MSSA on Bike Friendly University. Gary Urban met with MSSA leadership in April 2017 on Bicycle Friendly University matters, and the MSSA voted to be a Bike Friendly University May 2017. Gary is the Bike Coordinator for the Bicycle Friendly University application and is inquiring with the campus bicycle commuter community, promoting bike resources, and maintaining a dedicated bicycle website page mnsu.edu/greencampus/bicycling. He promoted May as Bike Month in the University Media Newsletter and in the Wellness Committee website and newsletter.

“Minnesota State Mankato is a great place to bike to and from work. MSU has 85+ bike racks across campus and 3 bicycle pump and repair stations. The Greater Mankato area has been adding bike lanes by campus and across town and more are on the way.”

bikeleague.org/university

bikeleague.org/content/5-es

- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation & Planning

bikeleague.org/bikemonth

- Bike-to-Work Week 2017: May 15-19, 2017
- Bike-to-Work Day - Friday, May 19, 2017

Written by Gary Urban

6. Bicycle Repair Stands

The campus community continues to use the bicycle repair stands. The campus will add an authorized fourth repair stand outside of Wissink. More information about the repair stands can be found at mnsu.edu/greencampus/bikerepairstands. *Written by Gary Urban*

7. Bicycle Registration

103 bicycles were registered on campus during the spring registration event. Another event is planned for the beginning of fall semester next year; Residence hall students will be the target audience. Students are encouraged to register their bikes so that the University has a record of them in the event of theft. *Information from David Cowan*

Waste: Recycling

8. Recyclemania

The Recycling subcommittee of the Environment Committee sponsored RecycleMania 2017. RecycleMania is the nation's premier waste reduction and recycling competition among colleges and universities, managed by Keep America Beautiful. The 2017 tournament featured 320 schools participating from 46 states in the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada, with an enrollment of 4.1 million students.

The Environmental Committee promoted this year's contest through the Green Campus website and posters thanks to Gary Urban, and through tabling at the CSU by two student leaders on campus, Erik Olson and Monica Warner, especially before the subcategory single game event Game Day Basketball. The Committee recruited student volunteers for the event through OrgSync. Twenty (20) student volunteers contributed a total of 96 hours and 40 minutes to the project under the supervision of Karen Anderson from the Community Engagement and Student Activities Office. The campus waste handler, LJP Waste & Recycling, provided the University's recycling data, and subcommittee member, Medea Myhra, entered the weekly data into the online database.

For the Game Day Basketball Event, Minnesota State University, Mankato placed 16th out of 30 with a diversion rate of 72.37% compared to 15th out of 24 in 2016 with a diversion rate of 62.2%. We also placed 15th out of 30 with per capita recycling lbs/person of 0.145 compared to 10th out of 26 in 2016 with per capita recycling lbs/person 0.133.

For RecycleMania 2017 overall, Minnesota State University, Mankato placed 127th out of 190 for a recycling percentage of 25.904 % in the Diversion Category, and 176th out of 245 for 5.731 lbs. per capita in the Per Capita Classic Category. This is equivalent to Cumulative GHG Reductions (based on the US EPA's Waste Reduction Model (WARM)) of:

- 173 Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalent, or
- 34 cars off the road, or
- the energy consumption of 15 households

Written by Medea Myhra



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF LAND AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

August 31, 2017

Dear President Davenport,

On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I want to congratulate Minnesota State University-Mankato for its participation in the annual intercollegiate Game Day Recycling Challenge. The Game Day Recycling Challenge is a competition between colleges and universities across the United States to see who can recycle and reduce their waste the most within their football stadiums and tailgating areas. Each year the competition kicks off in late August, coinciding with the beginning of the collegiate football season. Throughout the season, schools such as yours engaged their football fans to reduce waste, reuse materials, and recycle as much as they could. At the end of the football season, participating schools reported weights of waste and recyclables from one or more home games and competed against others within their athletic conference, as well as nationally.

The EPA partners with the Game Day Recycling Challenge because we recognize that it is an effective vehicle for engaging collegiate athletic departments in waste reduction. During this 2016 season, Game Day Recycling Challenge participants recycled more than 1,339 tons of materials. These efforts decreased greenhouse emissions by 3,980 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. This equates to the annual greenhouse gas emissions from 841 passenger vehicles; or equivalent to the annual emissions produced by the annual electricity use of 420 households. Schools that have achieved diversion rates of 90% or above within their stadiums are featured on the Zero Waste Wall of Fame, which can be accessed at <http://gamedaychallenge.org/zwl/>.

We are excited that your campus was among the 79 colleges and universities to participate in the 2016 Game Day Recycling Challenge. Your involvement proves your commitment to reducing waste within your athletic facilities and shows your campus's dedication to overcoming our modern environmental challenges. To review your school's full results please visit <http://gamedaychallenge.org/>.

We hope that you will join us in congratulating your students and alumni for their participation last year and look forward to your continued involvement in the 2017 Game Day Recycling Challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Vance", is written over a horizontal line.

Ron Vance, Chief
Resource Conservation Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

9. Student Recycling Team

Established in Fall 2014, the Student Recycling Team consists of work-study students employed by Building Services who assist the General Maintenance Worker Lead Recycling person with emptying recycling containers in all academic buildings across campus. This year as in previous years, the Team played a role in Recyclemania. *Written by Jason McCue*

10. Stadium Heights Recycling Initiative

Members of the Environment Committee initiated a program to increase the recycling off-campus at the Stadium Heights residence community. At this off-campus housing location, they have eight buildings with three floors each. The Environmental Committee printed a total of 30 11x 16 posters, one for each floor and an extra six for additional postings. The housing community had a total of two recycling areas on the campus. The posters show what type of products can, and cannot, be recycled. The posters also indicated the closest location to recycle near each housing complex. After contacting Stadium Heights, observers noticed a slight increase in recycling based on how full the recycling containers appeared between pickup days. *Written by Erik Olson*

11. What's On Wednesday (WOW) Recycling Event

Monica Warner, Environmental Committee member, collaborated with Community Advisors (CA's) in McElroy Hall to organize a sustainability related What's On Wednesday event called RE-MAC-YCLE. In addition to Monica, student, Taylor Heid, and Co-Chair, Dr. Paul Prew, attended the event where they advertised the purpose of the Environmental Committee, discussed the importance of sustainability, and judged a sculpture contest of recyclable materials. *Written by Paul Prew*

12. Recycling Guide

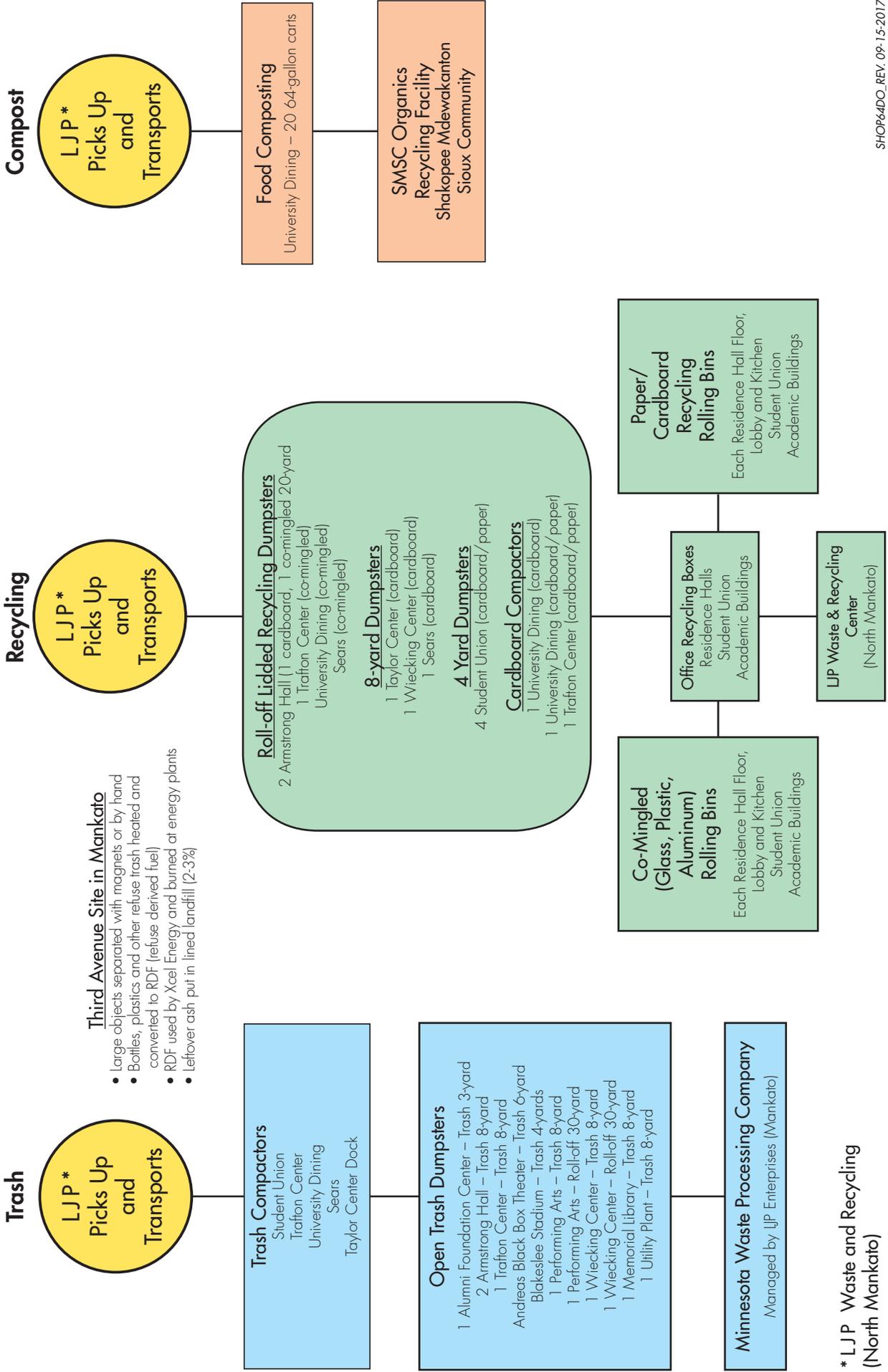
The Environmental Committee updated Student Recycling Guides to include information about composting at the new Dining Hall. The Committee will attempt this summer to have the Student Recycling Guides included in Orientation Packets for new students. *Written by Jason McCue*

13. Recycling Tour

Committee member, Jason McCue organized a tour of the University's recycling process and the Dining Services' new composting program. The tour highlighted the different waste and recycling streams on campus, the attempts to improve recycling behaviors, and the dramatic reduction of waste resulting from composting in the new dining hall. Committee members in attendance improved their understanding of University recycling efforts and waste disposal. *Written by Paul Prew*

Waste Stream Management

Objective: Maximize Recycling – Minimize Need for Lined Landfill Space



Third Avenue Site in Mankato

- Large objects separated with magnets or by hand
- Bottles, plastics and other refuse trash heated and converted to RDF (refuse derived fuel)
- RDF used by Xcel Energy and burned at energy plants
- Leftover ash put in lined landfill (2-3%)

* LJP Waste and Recycling (North Mankato)

14. Rubbermaid Recycling Audit

On October 10, 2016, Brian Restad from Newell Co. (formerly Rubbermaid) came to campus to do a cost-free audit of Minnesota State University, Mankato's recycling efforts and to give some ideas on improvement of the diversion rate. He stated the keys to a successful recycling program are "Education" and "Execution."

Brian's summary was as follows:

Based on the information gathered yesterday, he estimated the diversion rate on campus to be 20-25%. To put that into perspective, the average diversion rate in the state of Minnesota is 35%.

Two things to keep in mind:

1. Once the organic waste system is fully implemented in the new food service building, that will have a drastic (positive) impact on your diversion rate. I believe that will add another 10-15% to your overall diversion rate. That alone will move MNSU Mankato into the "above average" category vs. the county/state goals of 35% diversion.
2. There are some smaller "levers" that can be pulled in the near (or distant) future that will compliment many of the existing measures thus adding to your overall diversion rate.

These suggestions are outlined below:

- A. A collaborative effort between the students on the Environmental Committee and the students in the Marketing Club could be beneficial for all parties involved. The results of co-authored questionnaires and focus groups could provide valuable information on two fronts. First, from a student's perspective, this information would help you better understand "barriers" to recycling efforts on campus. Second, the students can provide valuable insight towards creating comprehensive, consistent, standardized messaging that can be used at all recycling locations throughout the campus.
- B. Regarding the areas on campus where there are Pepsi machines, I would recommend asking Pepsi for the bottle shaped recycling containers they provide many times at NO cost to the customer. There are obviously some areas where that type of container will not fit the decor/image. However, there are some locations where they will fit and each one placed will improve the odds in your favor that bottles or cans are not ending up in the waste stream.
- C. Another No cost recommendation would be to keep well labeled recycle containers as near as possible to regular waste containers. Very few students will seek out a recycle container if there is a garbage can right next to them, but no recycle container. This recommendation involves relocating some of the existing receptacles...as space allows.
- D. Once the composting system is up and running those efforts can be supplemented by adding green waste receptacles in the washrooms that have paper towels. The used paper towels can be added to your compost stream. This would remove yet another source from your general waste stream. See attached link (in green)
<http://www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/rcp/products/detail.jsp?rcpNum=3540-07&search=354007>
- E. The resident halls/dorm rooms provide another opportunity for improved student awareness/efforts in recycling. Keeping in mind the limited space in these environments, my recommendation would be to provide a receptacle in each room (vs. students providing their own) that allows them to be accountable for separating out the recyclable items. See attached link:

http://www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/rcp/products/detail.jsp?categoryCode=waste&subCategoryCode=waste_indoor_utility&rcpNum=2950-73&categoryCode_subCategoryCode_rcpNum=waste_waste_indoor_utility_2950-73

These units are available in blue or black and attach to the inside or outside of a standard 28.5qt desktide receptacle. See attached link:

http://www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/rcp/products/searchresults.jsp?search_text=29560&search=29560&submitIt.x=0&submitIt.y=0

Initially the smaller 13.5qt side bin (blue) could be the recycling section of the receptacle. Ideally, the smaller side bin (black) would be used for trash and the remainder of the bin (in blue) would be for the recycled items.

- F. As future budgets allow, considering some additional outdoor options for recycling receptacles (especially along the “new student tour” route) can continue to improve the odds in your favor. They serve as an additional way to divert volume from the waste stream AND add to the existing, high image. See attached links:

<http://www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/rcp/products/detail.jsp?rcpNum=1961727&search=1961727>

<http://www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/rcp/products/detail.jsp?rcpNum=1961726&search=1961726>

Written by Medea Myhra

Education and Communication

15. Marketing Plan

Thanks to the Integrated Marketing Team, the Environmental Committee has a Marketing Plan. Our marketing goals include a roll out of the recently reported Climate Action Plan, a need to increase the University community’s awareness of the Environmental Committee and its work, educating the University community about environmental issues, and to help create positive changes in environmentally sustainable behaviors. The Marketing subcommittee has identified ways to establish a consistent presence on campus and begun work to design and print publications. *Written by Matt Carlson*

16. Green Campus Website and Social Media

The Environmental Committee continues to maintain its website, mnsu.edu/greencampus , and its Facebook page, facebook.com/msumankatogreencampus . Gary Urban is the Committee’s webmaster.

Stats of select pages visited:

August 2016

417 | /greencampus/

1357 | /greencampus/events/

1113 | /greencampus/news/

154 | /greencampus/bicycling/

70 | /greencampus/climateactionplan/

61 | /greencampus/recyclemania/

154 | /greencampus/resources/

October 2016

443 | /greencampus/
 164 | /greencampus/events/
 108 | /greencampus/news/
 165 | /greencampus/bicycling/
 76 | /greencampus/climateactionplan/
 63 | /greencampus/recyclemania/
 218 | /greencampus/resources/
 77 | /greencampus/recycle/

November 2016

504 | /greencampus/
 179 | /greencampus/events/
 119 | /greencampus/news/
 224 | /greencampus/bicycling/
 104 | /greencampus/climateactionplan/
 80 | /greencampus/recyclemania/
 231 | /greencampus/resources/
 127 | /greencampus/recycle/

Written by Gary Urban

17. Earth Day Event

The Earth Day subcommittee determined this day would help clean-up the MSU, Mankato campus and surrounding areas. Based on the principle that the grounds crew frequently cleans up the inner part of campus, the subcommittee focused on the outside of campus because it is rarely cleaned as it takes too much time for the grounds crew. The event was coordinated with the Maverick Day of Service, which was on Earth Day. All volunteers registered with the Maverick Day of Service to ease the registration and sign up process. The Earth Day subcommittee contacted the campus landscape crew to pick up trash after the event. They separated the campus into six areas and three extra areas off-campus: Rasmussen Woods, Stadium Road, and Monks Avenue. The majority of the turnout (32 people) was from learning communities. The learning communities broke into four groups of eight and worked at various locations around campus. Covering all nine areas, the rest of the turnout was from the Zoology Club, Habitat for Humanity, and five more individuals. The total turnout of 65 people picked up about 12 55-gallon garbage bags full of trash. On the following day, the landscape crew came out and picked up all of the collected the garbage. *Written by Erik Olson*

18. General Education Goal 10 Assessment

Co-Chair, Dr. Prew participated in the assessment of General Education Goal Area 10: People and the Environment. One of the action steps of the Climate Action Plan is to evaluate Goal Area 10 to gauge the inclusion of sustainability related issues. Due to his participation in the assessment process of Goal Area 10, Dr. Prew concluded that significant human-environmental interactions were a considerable focus of the courses assessed. Critical issues of sustainability were present in the qualitative materials submitted to the assessment committee. *Written by Paul Prew*

19. Learning Community

Committee member, Dr. Robyn Ceurvorst, developed a Learning Community focused on the issues of sustainability. Dr. Ceurvorst identified sustainability related courses for students to attend as part of the Learning Community. The brochure for the learning community states, “Students in this learning community will be able to share social, academic, career development, leadership, civic engagement and community service experiences across disciplines that focus on natural resource management.” *Written by Paul Prew*

(Dr. Ceurvorst provided a flyer for this learning community which is not included in this document.)

20. Interns

Spring 2017, Gary Urban setup, via the Career Development Center Handshake system, “MavJobs” to advertise with the University student population opportunities for undergraduate volunteer intern positions for the Environmental Committee. The Intern Program was modeled after the MSU Wellness Committee which has used volunteer undergraduate interns for the past few years with great success. Gary consulted with the Wellness Committee on the structure of this process. The volunteer undergrad interns would help with coordinating events, social media, newsletters, RecycleMania, etc. A few applicants applied and were reviewed. Ultimately, the Environmental Committee needed more time to review and respond. We look to startup this process again prior to Fall Semester 2017. *Written by Gary Urban*

21. Bee Friendly Campus

Student, Taylor Heid, approached the Committee to seek Bee Friendly Campus status by planting local pollinator species. The Environmental Committee agreed to be the institutional locus for the Bee Friendly Campus initiative. The Bee Friendly Campus subcommittee identified a small location near the campus paylot, and began preparing it for planting pollinator friendly species in conjunction with the Grounds Department and the Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts. The restoration plan states, “Benefits of the restoration include scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality, mitigation of storm water runoff, food and reproduction site for native pollinators and educational opportunities” (see Plan below).

Written by Paul Prew

Minnesota State University, Mankato Prairie Restoration Plan for Bee-Friendly Campus

04/20/2017

Goal:

Establish a low maintenance area of native grasses and wildflowers by the existing prairie restoration site by the pay lot area of Minnesota State University, Mankato campus. Benefits of the restoration include scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality, mitigation of storm water runoff, food and reproduction site for native pollinators and educational opportunities.

History:

Two previous attempts at this restoration have been attempted. The exotic species include black locust and a host of others. Using a control strategy on one of these exotics often results in encouraging another. It was decided in the spring 2017 to start over on this site by removing exotics, treating with herbicide, and conducting a controlled burn. Mixed height grasses and wildflowers will be reseeded in the fall of 2017. Some herbicide resistant flowers may be planted in the spring of 2018 as well.

Partners:

Minnesota State University, Mankato Faculty – Taylor Heid, Zoology Club President, and Erik Olson, Environmental Committee Student Co-Chair

Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts -- Jim Lynch and Henry Panowitsch

Minnesota State University, Mankato Faculty – Dr. Paul Prew, Environmental Committee Chair, and Dr. Robyn Ceurvorst, Environmental Committee Member

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources -- Randy Schindle, M.S., District Forester

Management Plan (starting spring 2017):

Spring / Summer 2017 – Cut and stump treat locust and other exotic brush using MSU tools - MSU student crews. Spray site with Roundup or alternative herbicide to control Canada thistle, clover, nettles and winter biennials – MSU facilities. Order native grass and flower seed for project – MSU facilities or Bee Committee?

Fall 2017- Burn site – MSU facilities and student crew. Construct bee houses and educational signage – MSU Bee Committee.

Responsibilities:

MSU Bee Committee, faculty and students will:

Assist with seed collection, exotic species control, burning and assist with and provide educational opportunities.

MSU Facilities will:

Mow edges of site and remove snow / ice by walkways, purchase seed for project, remove piles of cut exotics, broadcast spray and burn. Once established and in good order all maintenance of the sight will revert to Bee Committee, faculty and student crews for continued upkeep and educational tours.

MNDNR and Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts will:

Provide technical expertise.

Written by Robyn Ceurvorst

