

Green Labs – 2/28/14

Present at meeting: Cathy Brennan, Elizabeth Burdick (GSK), Thomas Lentz, Chris MacNevin, Kristin Blank-White, Amy Preble, Sarah Lowder, Thomas Eisenhart, Aaron Schmidt

1. Presentation from Elizabeth Burdick, sustainability representative from GSK:
 - a. Goals: Reduce water by 20%, hazardous & non-hazardous waste by 25% by 2015 (by volume)
 - i. Specifically looking at water, fume hoods, water footprint of products
 - ii. Sustainable purchasing program for labs
 - iii. 95% of waste comes from R&D
 - b. Walk around lab, look at what they're using and the waste from it, facilitate discussions that will lead to action and change
 - i. Scientists can perform self-audits
 1. Looking at chemical inventory
 2. Looking at unnecessary purchasing
 - c. Icarus Program: Scan chemicals in a lab instead of people purchasing specific chemicals
 - d. Did a dumpster dive to raise awareness: looked at weeks' worth of waste, spread it out, took pictures
 - e. Also looking into vendors who use less packaging...pressuring current vendors into using less packaging (how much purchasing power do they have?)
 - f. Capturing "waste stories," publishing in newsletter, giving positive feedback/recognition that others will want to emulate
 - i. Were given feedback that incentives/competition between depts. at GSK wasn't the way to go
 - g. GSK Sustainability Award – given by CFO
 - h. ChemStores: can send the chemicals down to storage, someone brings it up to them (need large storage space...RTP location doesn't have this)
 - i. GSK wants to start "sustainability support group" with other pharm. companies, Duke, UNC green lab initiatives
 - i. Elizabeth will be switching places with co-worker Matt Kray in Philadelphia, and he will be following up
 - ii. Opportunities to share best practices, share resources on rare recyclables (haz. wastes, metals, chemicals that need larger amounts to be recycled)
2. Update from Sarah Lowder on the Freezer Challenge
 - a. Sarah is setting up speaking engagements at various department meetings to pitch freezer challenge, try to bring people on board
 - b. Need someone to go to Genetics Dept. meeting on 3/10 (spring break)--Thomas Lentz & Chris MacNevin will go. Sarah will provide them with materials and talking points.
 - c. Try to get the Gazette involved to get the word out
 - d. Sarah is going to send folks on the committee stats that she has, re: energy savings raising temps on -80 freezers to -70 and also buying newer, more efficient freezers

- e. Some freezers on campus are from 1980
 - f. Sarah is going to put in a request for funding to RESPC
3. Update on 5 gallon Drum Recycling project: expanded from Chemistry (Venable-Murray) to include Pharmacy as well (Beard and Genetic Med). Cathy provided stats to show they have collected 478 cans since the program began in July, 2013, which translates to 1000 kg steel that is being crushed and recycled in the scrap metal dumpster at Surplus Property.
4. RESPC Funding
- a. Green Labs committee received \$3500!
 - i. Graphic design revamp of best practices guide with UNC Creative
 - ii. Printing of guide, poster, stickers
 - iii. Getting guide on web
 - iv. Outreach plan
 - b. Need scientists on cmte. to do a content edit before it goes to Design Svcs. (Thomas L., Chris, ThomasE., Christina, Nita)
 - i. Aaron: converted to Word so that they may share/track comments
 - ii. Gave all a month for a content edit (deadline: next GL meeting, 3/28)
 - iii. Will then do a grammar/spelling pass
 - iv. Send to UNC Design
 - v. Good opportunity to also bring up data for figures (Sarah will send)
5. Kristin brought up Donna Haines – students in Climate LEAP
- a. High school students that are available over the summer or next semester for data entry-type jobs or manual labor
 - b. Could be used to distribute guides/hang posters?
6. Thomas Eisenhart is a Ph.D. student in Chemistry, and new RESPC rep. for green labs
- a. He asked that the committee continue to consider RESPC for funding
 - b. Freezer exchange program? RESPC – could do a cost share for freezer exchange
 - c. NC State did a rebate program like this—Cathy and Sarah have data