May 2014 – Green Labs Meeting

May 23, 2014

10-11 AM

1 - Kimberly Clark Nitrile Glove Recycling:
Only program of its kind in the USA, Kimberly Clark has goals set for 2015 concerning “People, Planet and Product” (*One goal being a zero manufacturing waste to landfill goal*)

1.2 tons of waste per year for average customers who use 25 cases per month, so can reduce waste by 47% by using more sustainable glove

How are they recycled?
Right Cycle partners create a life cycle solution, the gloves are pelletized and the end products consist of benches, bike racks or even Adirondack chairs...

How does it work?
4 Steps: Register, Collect, Wrap pallets, Ship... costs about $350 per pallet for shipping
Any receptacle that’s usable, no bags or liners are necessary but can be used
As far as contamination, lightly soiled are acceptable, but heavily contaminated or Red Bag biological waste could not be recycled, nor could those used in radiation labs.
University of CA Santa Cruz has recently adopted the program and their website provides information
Pilot program steps would involve targeting labs that use the gloves, determine best practices, and initiate RightCycle at UNC
They’re looking into other end products, much of the material is donated ie: playgrounds etc.
Next step: Identification of Labs that use the gloves already, and that could participate

Contact Information: ty320f@live.unc.edu

2 - Plastic Film Recycling – Tonya Randell and Thomas Lentz
Pilot in Thurston Bowles with Thomas and from Central Receiving
Thomas has been collecting for about two years, primarily from his bio- lab, and around 200 pounds/year has been recycled from his lab

About 15% of what was collected was questionable or unable to be recycled
Smaller travel sized plastics present a problem for Material Recovery Facilities
Sonoco reported that pipette wrappers, etc. cannot be recycled

Biggest issue is the inability of UNC Recycling staff to pick up on a regular basis

Contact Information: tonya.randell@moorerecycling.com

3 - Move in
OWRR will allow people to bring in Styrofoam to the staged trailer during this year’s move in week and promote it
May be promoted with flyers, emails, enthusiasm, etc.

4 – Green Labs Intern
Sarah Lowder will be working with us again beginning June 2 and will work with UNC Sustainability as well as OWRR