

## GREEN LABS

Attendees: Amy Preble, Jessica O'Hara, Frank Stillo, Natalie Thomas, Nita Eskew, Thomas Lynch, Drew, Aaron Schmidt, Cathy Brennan, Christina Lebonville, Kristin Blank-White, Cindy Shea, Aijan

### AGENDA, 11/30/12

- Update on 5-gal drum recycling (Preble): The pilot program remains in limbo until funding for a can crusher is secured. Crushing the cans (versus puncturing both ends) is safer and crushed cans are also more compact for storage and transport (7-8 crushed cans will fill a 90 gal cart).
- RESPC updates on collaboration with Sustainability Office (RESPC representative): Piya Kerlap's shut the sash magnet design will be reproduced and distributed by Energy Management to EHS for any remaining buildings without this type of educational signage. These magnets are for VAV hoods and may still be needed in the Genomics building.
- Reusable glove project (Preble): no new updates on pilot programs in Housekeeping or DLAM. Preble mentioned a possible lead for an additional pilot in the School of Nursing and will follow up with her contact. More information needed.
- Lab Safety Training module additions continued
- Green Labs website (Brennan)
  - Energy Management has an Extreme Energy handbook available on their website and plans to create an energy efficient lab equipment list. Both of these items would be great content, or link-to-content, additions to EHS's Green Labs webpage. Contact Jessica O'Hara for more information.
  - Website goals include acting as a hub for lab-related campus resources and best practices including but not limited to: EM's EE lab list, information about 5 gal drum recycling, links to vendors, events, and other relevant information like Labs 21.
  - Please send Green Labs web content additions to Cathy Brennan.
  - Lindsay Leonard will create a Green Labs email alias and act as the committee contact online. \*Contact email alias created as [greenlabs@unc.edu](mailto:greenlabs@unc.edu).
- Sustainability updates (Shea):
  - It was put forward that the committee should review any previously existing case statements to further develop the Green Labs initiative. Established goals and targets can be pitched at related meetings, like the science directors and lab managers' biweekly meetings, to get the word out across campus and increase our visibility.
- Exhibitors at monthly trade shows at Med School? (Shea)

- Integra Lab Equipment
- It was suggested that Green Labs could participate in one of the monthly med school vendor shows, or hold our own. It was also mentioned that more information on currently used, available, and/or tested energy efficient equipment is needed--as is an inventory of who's using the best EQ (preferably with testimonials from UNC users). EQ price was identified as a limiting and determining factor for campus ePro users. Further knowledge and testimonials from UNC users about specific equipment and long-term energy/money savings needed. Since it is not possible to break down energy use within buildings, we could prioritize our efforts if we could get a sense of relative energy consumption of specific EQ.
- A new contract was negotiated and 100% recycled paper is now available through Staples at the same price as 30% recycled paper.
- Energy Management updates (O'Hara)
  - An Energy Recognition Program is being created to incentivize energy efficiency across campus. The program will reward those that save energy on campus by providing awards (named bricks with award info, gift certificates, etc.). EM plans to establish a committee and will create an online nomination forum for either quarterly or biannual award recipient selection.
- Scheduling meetings for spring semester: Last Fridays of every month, 10a-11:30a, 3202 Murray Hall Conference Room.
- Other Business
  - Q1: Why do labs use a lot of energy?
  - A1: Fume hoods and freezers are big energy users in labs. Constant volume hoods run all the time and most of the buildings on campus have these types of hoods. Some lab buildings on campus are looking into retrofitting hoods as part of their performance contracts. Autoclaves, incubators, large centrifuges, lasers, and other equipment are also big energy users.
  - Q2: What is a fume hood?
  - A2: Fume hoods are a type of ventilation used in labs to protect users from inhaling or otherwise being exposed to harmful chemical agents. They pull in air when open and exhaust through ducting out of the building. Because they use so much air, buildings with hoods require more energy in heating/cooling (~5-6x more energy use than buildings without fume hoods). Each hood uses about the same amount of energy as 3-4 houses combined.

- For information on current energy use on campus, go to the UNC energy dashboard at <https://itsapps.unc.edu/energy/>.
- Plastic bag recycling pilot has not yet been expanded. Bring your bags to OWRR and they'll take them to Harris Teeter. (Recyclable plastics include the "wrinkly and not stretchy" variety. Plastic shrink wrap from labs for this type of recycling is great because it's clean and dry.)
- Teracycle was mentioned and has an interesting business model whereby companies fund take back system for waste. Preble mentioned that Solo cups cannot be recycled and expressed interest in Teracycle as a possible way to recycle these cups. Christina will look into Teracycle for labs and get back to the group.
- Greek Sustainability Council has successfully hosted zero waste parties.
- A list of what can be recycled, and what cannot, can be found on the OWRR website at <http://www.wastereduction.unc.edu/CampusRecycling/WhatCanIRecycle>. If you're still not sure, call them up!