



2011 Symposium on Sustainability – Sustainability Interactive Visioning Session Overview

Title of Group: Sustainability Symposium Staff Session – Informing, Engaging, and Energizing Our Operations and Initiatives

Committee Members (Chair and member names including department):

Kerry Dixon-Fox (Chair), Planning and Construction Services, Facilities Planning and Management

Jeff Eichorn, Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Jennifer Garrett Nissen, Memorial Union, Student Activities Office

Julie Ham, College of Engineering Administration

Michael Lohrbach, IT Services Systems and Operations

Overall Objective:

Inform staff about sustainability efforts applicable in their work environments, engage in discussion about potential applications and ideas, energize them to take action by implementing new initiatives into their workplace, and enhance and motivate discussions about and engagement in sustainability at Iowa State University.

Specific Goals and Outcomes:

The goals of this session are to provide the opportunity for staff members to collectively share existing efforts and interests to integrate sustainability practices into the daily operations of ISU; to brainstorm ideas that can be further developed to increase and enhance sustainability efforts; to identify barriers that may exist in furthering and growing sustainability initiatives; and to share ideas and opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

Process (How session is organized):

The session will be organized into three sections. The first session will present a variety of projects and initiatives that have been implemented into campus operations by staff members that further sustainability and support the Live Green! initiative.

The second session will focus on small group brainstorming on areas of opportunity as related to additional means of integrating sustainability and living green into daily life at Iowa State.

From this brainstorming session, a list of topics will be developed for further focused discussion. Brainstorming “stations” will be set-up for each discussion topic. The third session will center on focused discussion (10-15 minutes) to yield a set of proposed action steps for each discussion topic. Attendees will rotate between discussion topics until each attendee has offered input and ideas for each topic. Session three will end with all proposed action steps being voted on and the top action item from each topic being further developed to include goals, timeline, resources, and needs.

Topics for discussion may include, but are not limited to:

- How do we engage staff in the Live Green! initiative?
- What are some low or no-cost opportunities in energy savings and resource conservation?
- What strategies or ideas are currently being implemented to daily operations that are easily transferable to other projects, departments, initiatives?
- How do we envision Iowa State University in 10 years and how can sustainability and the Live Green! initiative help to achieve that vision?

Summary of Results:

Approximately 70 staff members from across the campus participated in the focus session. We began with a look around campus and presentations from four support areas.

- Norm Hill of Central Stores presented on the changes that have occurred in Business Services (Purchasing, Printing Services, Book Store, Central Stores) in the last three years;
- Mike Lohrbach of IT Services presented ideas for use in conserving resources with computing;
- Bob Currie of Facilities Services provided simple ways to conserve power in our offices and buildings; and,
- Mark Huss of FPM presented on the University Compost Facility.

The attendees were then divided into groups of 7-8 at tables and each group brainstormed on four different questions:

- How do we engage staff in the Live Green! initiative?
- What are some low or no-cost opportunities in energy savings and resource conservation?
- What strategies or ideas are currently being implemented to daily operations that are easily transferable to other projects, departments, initiatives?
- How do we envision Iowa State University in 10 years and how can sustainability and the Live Green! initiative help to achieve that vision?

Each attendee then had 5 tape “dots” to select their top ideas for further development, and then the top ideas were shared with the group and again when the three focus groups came back together at the last hour of the day.

The top ideas for each question were:

How do we engage staff in the Live Green! initiative?

- Flex time (work at home) 4-10 hour days (11)
- Increase bus riding incentive/bike riding, walking- rebate on parking fees for alternative transportation use (7)
- Stay on message- keep talking about it (6)

How do we envision ISU in 10 years and how can sustainability and the Live Green! initiative help to achieve that vision?

- True culture changes= sustainable practices are expected (10)
- Retrofit existing buildings with “green” systems (or eliminate) (7)

- Reclaim 50% of existing parking lots (6)
- More centralized recycling streams (5)

What strategies and ideas are you currently using in your department that can be easily transferred to other projects, departments, initiative?

- What practices have the highest cost/benefit ratio; create a “top ten list”: (17)
- More measurement and verification (10)
- Example – be a good role model (8)
- Keep sustainability topic a part of all agendas (7)
- Improve building envelope (7)
- Occupancy sensors in buildings – especially classrooms (5)

What are some low or no cost opportunities in energy savings and resource conservation?

- Thank people/recognize for doing the right thing (9)
- Personal behavior – how do we communicate (5)

The top ideas will be shared with the Sustainability Working Group and with appropriate administrative departments for further development and strategizing steps for implementation.

The entire list of brainstormed ideas including vote count received is included here:

How do we engage staff in the Live Green! initiative?

- Flex time (work at home) 4-10 hour days (11)
- Increase bus riding incentive/bike riding, walking- rebate on parking fees for alternative transportation use (7)
- Stay on message- keep talking about it (6)
- Need leaders/administrators knowledgeable/passionate about these issues/opportunities (4)
- Community gardens (surplus compost; student food pantry) (4)
- Eliminate naysayers/people who don't want to participate (2)
- Reward positive energy saving behavior (2)
- Help staff engage faculty in their departments (2)
- Monthly green movie (1)
- Continue green symposium (1)
 - Expand lecture series throughout year
- Encourage people to look for ways to use Live Green! loan fund (1)
- Cy-Hawk- Panther competition (1)
- More exchange of ideas for saving energy- building supervisors, more sharing of information between departments (1)
- Expand opportunities for engagement
 - Education component of Office of Sustainability
- Reward staff monetarily as a percentage of energy saving ideas
- Quantify the message- i.e. energy savings graph
- Create energy use baseline- measure and communicate improvement
- Report the positive
- Create department/building Green Team
- Communicate energy savings in dollar amounts (people want to know the a difference was made)
- Celebrate successes with snacks
- Promote opportunities and share successes
- Reward energy reduction ideas- individuals

- Initiative self audits- identify energy hog
- Promote/share ideas and successes (fume hoods)
- Provide support for changes/improvements in energy savings beyond Live Green! loans
- Monthly email newsletters
- Lunch and learn
- More individual sustainability training- more education about how to save energy
- Need data about how much energy we use/waste
- Staff meeting agenda items
- Quantitative measure for savings and continual communications(1)
- Increase metering and evaluation of data (11)
- Make it personal

How do we envision ISU in 10 years and how can sustainability and the Live Green! initiative help to achieve that vision?

- True culture changes= sustainable practices are expected (10)
- Retrofit existing buildings with “green” systems (or eliminate) (7)
- Reclaim 50% of existing parking lots (6)
- More centralized recycling streams (5)
- Bicycle loan program- city/ISU (4)
- Students attend based upon ISU’s sustainable reputation (4)
- Incentives to live near campus-reduce commuting (3)
- Collaborate with other institutions nationwide (3)
- 50% of our vehicles will be electric (2)
- Reduced use of coal (wind/geothermal/solar) (2)
- Priority parking for energy efficient vehicles (2)
- More telecommuting (1)
- Everything we purchase is green- more local products (1)
- Education on sustainability and live green opportunities (1)
- Database that allows ISU to measure energy use- and analyze to improve usage (1)
- ISU as beacon-model using technology to be more efficient and green- cutting edge (eliminate coal-generated power) (1)
- ISU still cutting edge of technology, etc (1)
- Continue planning for the future- 50, 100, 150 years (1)
- Continue focusing energies of all members of the ISU community (1)
- Recognize and reward best practices (1)
- AASHE- host conference (1)
- Use campus facilities as a learning laboratory (1)
- Partnerships with entities external to ISU (1)
- Things we are doing now will become the norm
- Information/best practices collected and shared
- Extension showing people/industry how to be energy-efficient
- Propose usage of green initiatives for new buildings
- 100% renewable energy (wind, solar)
- Reduce on-campus parking0 encourage walk, commute, bus, etc
- Paperless operations/electronic communications
- Partnership between City of Ames/ISU/surrounding areas
- Leverage Extension to create partnerships

- More motion-sensor lights “smart” technology,
 - “Beam me up, Scotty”
- Better windows in buildings
- More virtual classrooms
- E-books
- Reduce energy consumption
- Better understanding of total cost of ownership- life cycle costing
- Off coal
- Motion detectors that work
- True paperless
- No incandescent lamps
- More local-powered solar devices
- More extensive use of LED lights inside and outside
- More thin-client computers
- Cloud-based computing services
- Enable better quality of work-life balance

What strategies and ideas are you currently using in your department that can be easily transferred to other projects, departments, initiative?

- What practices have the highest cost/benefit ratio; create a “top ten list”: (17)
- More measurement and verification (10)
- Example – be a good role model (8)
- Keep sustainability topic a part of all agendas (7)
- Improve building envelope (7)
- Occupancy sensors in buildings – especially classrooms (5)
- LED lighting (2)
- Smart power strips (2)
- Survey personnel – identify low hanging fruit (2)
- Keep Iota State Beautiful team (2)
- Change behavior/habits of users (don’t count on technology) (1)
- Go electronic on large, shared documents (1)
- Start employees on the right foot during new employee orientation (1)
- Low Flow toilets (1)
- Plastic recycling (1)
- Recapture waste heat/cooling (1)
- Paperless meeting (no printed agendas) (1)
- Virtual staff meeting (using adobe connect) (1)
- Reduce/centralize equipment (1)
- Beardshear Energy Conservation Team – Quarterly newsletter
- Computer power usage monitor
- Reduce paperwork by using email
- High Kelvin temp fluorescent tubes – see better with less light
- Network multi-function printer/copier/etc.
- Last out lights out
- Recycling
- Window tinting/replacement
- Electric Vehicles – recharge from solar/wind sources

- Reduce hours of operation
- Smarter automated building controls
- Posting data/success in departments
- Reduce/eliminate personal appliances
- Make changes simple for people to adapt to
- Sleep mode on computers and printers
- Reduce personal printers
- When replacing appliance, use energy efficient ones
- Dell no longer includes manuals and CD's in computer purchases – ask vendors for combined shipping, online manuals, etc.
- Ask others on campus to help – connect needs with expertise
- Create open office format
- Promote what we are doing so others can do the same
- Sustainability/energy reduction in performance review
- Design with LEED in mind
- E-books
- LED lights
- Car pooling – work or weekend – and foster community
- Energy audit
- Collect Styrofoam peanuts for re-use
- Re-use 3-ring binders
- Electronic signature security

What are some low or no cost opportunities in energy savings and resource conservation?

- Thank people/recognize for doing the right thing (9)
- Personal behavior – how do we communicate (5)
- Eliminate disposable water bottles (3)
- Alternative transportation (bike, walk, bus, etc) (3)
- Smart Power Strips (3)
- Shower with a friend (3)
- Encourage others to be responsible/take initiative (2)
- Use CyRide, walk, ride bike, care pool/van pool (2)
- Dual flush toilets and waterless urinals (2)
- Motion sensor faucets (2)
- Turn off cooling for water fountains (2)
- Evaluate lighting and turn it off if possible (1)
- Mandatory reporting of departmental conservation activities (1)
- Newspaper recycling
- Motion sensors – lights
- Optimize trash pickups
- Beverage container recycling
- Change T12 lamps to T8
- Wear warmer clothing
- Turn off some lights in the office
- Use the same mug, plateware and silverware
- Reuse food containers

- Get ISU dining Container
- Reuse bags & totes
- Turn off computers at night
- Turn off copy machines
- Use less lamps
- Install tile flooring/carpets
- 5000*K tubes
- Put filtering film on large windows
- Use 30% less light – U.S. has highest light usage per person in the world @ 30% we would be more in line with Europe and other countries
- Take advantage of building structures
- Window shades
- Work from home
- Recycling
- Water refill programs
- Outlaw plastic throw away bottles on campus
- All entries to have vestibules
- Occupancy sensors in all classroom/lecture rooms/time clock
- Extend daylight savings time
- Don't get too attached to technology/take a break
- Consider/give opportunity to work from home, if possible
- Peer pressure
- Last one out turn it off
- Close the sash
- Occupancy sensors
- De-lamp lighting
- Infrared personal heaters
- Implement sleep setting for computers
- Purchase energy efficient items
- Low flow fixtures
- Share magazine subscription and bring old magazines to MU browsing library for library sale