

## **Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting**

**4-7-11**

Present: Bill Hamilton, Rich Jehlik, Cheri Annin, Teresa Bohnet, Alie Clark and Peter Maas

We started the meeting by talking about some simple ways to reduce waste here at Creighton, and some of those ideas are: Setting up our Outlook “signatures” with something like “Don’t print this email – Create a folder in Outlook and store it there!” or “Before you print this – do you really need a copy?”

We also talked about expanding the recycling program to the indoor and outdoor athletic events. We are getting some recycling there now but in order to expand the program we would need volunteers to stay after games to get the recyclable material that didn’t get thrown in the bins – items that get swept down from the seats. We should approach the Green Jays and see if they’re interested in helping.

We discussed the signage, or sometimes lack of it, in the residence halls. They were converted over a few years ago and some of the signage may have gotten removed during painting, or cleaning, or...? Nick Williams, a student and a supporter of sustainability issues, took some of our old posters and updated them and will distribute them to the residence halls. I changed the ones at Opus so they should be good but Nick and some of his IRHG friends will try and get to the rest of the residence halls.

We discussed signage for the outdoor recycling bins and saw examples of how they could have better signs. The examples were well received but I got a bid for the signs and the bid was pretty high so I will now approach our painting department and inquire about decals and outdoor paint.

There don’t appear to be any Webmasters among us!

We discussed the possibility of having our own web pages under the “Recycling” category but the general consensus was that those pages should be under our general “Sustainability” umbrella, which is already up and running and hopefully has been Bookmarked by many people here at Creighton.

We discussed the fact that the city and its recycler, Firststar Fiber, are now accepting milk and juice cartons. We are still awaiting word from our recycler, International Paper, about whether they will follow suit.

Someone brought up the possibility of water barrels in the Jesuit Gardens or the Murphy Building and someone else was going to look into grants.

We talked about “training” the RA’s and RD’s about what is and is not recyclable; the assumption being that they could impart that knowledge on the students in their halls.

We were asked to get some garbage cans in the Rigge hallways as the new recycling bins are sometimes being used for trash cans.

There are two blue recycling bins outside the DoIT area in the LRAL. There should only be one and one garbage can.

We looked at the stickers that the nice folks from the University of Vermont came up with that promote emptying bottles, cups and cans before throwing them in the recycling. I will contact them and ask them if we can copy their idea and artwork and try it here. The campaign is called “Drink it or sink it”.

We looked at first examples of web pages showing pictures of what is and is not recyclable. Some of the comments were: “Too wordy!” “More bullet points for examples, less paragraphs.” “Keep the wording and pictures simple.” “Billy Bluejay and our name don’t need to be in the pictures – they’re distractions. A simple green “chasing arrows” recycling sign or one with a line through it will convey the point easier and faster.” “The styrofoam cup looks just like the paper cup – either take it out or note that it is styrofoam.” Change “Can’t be recycled” to “do not recycle”. I will take the pictures again using these guidelines and will redo the wording.

We discussed the “clamshell” lunch boxes that Sodexo uses – should there be something on the label or a small sign on the table where they pick them up? Perhaps it should say “Please...Tip the remainder of your lunch into the trash and recycle this lunchbox”. We should also include a reminder that the plastic silverware is recyclable.

I feel this is a pretty accurate recollection of the meeting but if you have other items you would like to see in the Official Minutes please contact me and we can get them included.

Thanks also to Alie Clark for her note taking. She did an excellent job!