

## Recap of Recycling Summit 1 and 2 Initiatives

### 1 **Increased access to outdoor/indoor recycling containers:**

Goal: To increase access to outdoor and indoor recycling containers

Since 2001, two waves of outdoor recycling containers have been placed throughout campus. The first placement of five multimaterial recycling and litter containers in Spring 2001 was funded by Physical Plant-Campus Services (PP-CS). The second placement consisted of 47 similar containers, which were newly designed, ergonomically improved, and funded in large part by the California Department of Conservation. Capital Projects will be specifying placement of these containers outside of all new and substantially renovated buildings on campus.

Pilot programs are operating in Wurster Hall to bring recycling into the classrooms/studios. We continue to seek funding and support for indoor public recycling bins

**Next Steps/Funding:** We will need to seek additional and outside funding in order to continue placement of outdoor recycling containers until every waste disposal site offers a recycling option.

### 2 **Student Recycling Education Coordinator (SREC):**

Goal: To educate the campus population about the importance of recycling, and how and where to recycle

This SREC position, jointly funded by ASUC, PP-CS, and Housing Services, is comprised of two students who develop and implement recycling outreach to the campus population. They have overseen two Recycling Weeks, the Blue In Green Art and Design Contest, "Take Only What You Can Eat" incentive campaigns, regular tabling activities and have done extensive outreach and coordination with Housing Services. They have developed the Residential Recycling Education Coordinator Program that allows student Residence Unit residents to volunteer to act as recycling resources in their particular residence halls and implement various recycling programs in their units. A paid oversight position for each unit has now been adopted by Housing Services in lieu of their portion of the SREC funding. SRECs have also coordinated with the new Crossroads Dining facility to design and install food waste reduction outreach for students. Initial \$30,000 funding has lasted two years. ASUC portion of program funding has not yet been received.

**Next Steps/Funding:** We need to seek ongoing funding in order to continue this program. Current program costs indicate that the program can be adequately funded with \$10,000 annually.

### 3 **Materials Exchange**

Goal: To establish a venue ("shop") for recirculating still-usable but currently disposed-of materials to the campus community.

Re-USE, the campus materials exchange, has operated in the parking lot of MLK since August 2001. Space has been donated by ASUC Auxiliary. Outside and PP-CS funding has enabled extensive outreach to the campus community and adequate staffing of the “shop”. Re-USE has worked closely with Excess, Surplus and Salvage to insure complementary disposal services to the campus population for still-usable items. The bike trailer collection program has expanded to all on-campus buildings, and a bike tool lending library was developed in conjunction with the ASUC. End of Semester Re-USE collection activities include reader/notebook collection. Re-USE workers continue to table on Sproul with readers to increase distribution potential, and at other events to increase visibility. Diversion has reached over 18,000 pounds of material, at an estimated value to the campus of over \$22,000 to date. The “Choose to Re-use” program has been established to address the glut of re-usable material anticipated to be generated from the continuing surge/relocation process on campus. Outside funding will end as of May 2003.

**Next Steps/Funding:** In order to continue the Re-USE “shop,” continued funding needs to be sought. Additional outside funding may exist for limited components of the program. Current program costs indicate that the “store” staffing costs (the minimum to keep the program operational) can be adequately funded with \$9,000 annually.

#### **4 Reusable Mug Program**

Goal: To distribute reusable thermal mugs to allow students to move beyond recycling to waste reduction awareness and reduce paper cup waste.

3000 mugs were distributed during Recycling Week of Fall 2001. This was coordinated and funded by PP-CS. There was no mug distribution during Fall 2002. ASUC has expressed interest in assuming responsibility for the reusable mug distribution program. The cost for the 2001 mug program was \$10,500, for purchase of 6,000 mugs.

**Next Steps:** See Proposal B.

#### **5 Buy Recycled Campaign**

Goal: To increase the purchase of recycled content materials on campus where feasible, which saves resources, reduces pollution and ensures the continued demand for collected recycled feedstock.

The Buy Recycled Task Force, convened in October 2001, is focusing first on copy paper purchasing, because this represents the largest single product type consumed on campus, where the recycled content option is quality and price-competitive with the virgin content option. Diffuse campus purchasing has made outreach and education challenging. CalPIRG has been working with larger departments to support them switching to using at least 30% post-consumer recycled content paper. They have also done competitive costs analyses for recycled content papers and find many recycled papers within 2-5% of the non-recycled paper costs. Campus Supply has shared their customer contact

information to allow easier outreach to purchasers by Campus Recycling and Refuse Services (CRRS) and CalPIRG. PP-CS Custodial Services and Housing Services continue to use recycled content sanitary products. UC Press will shortly begin using only recycled content paper in its book production.

**Next Steps:** The Task Force will be convened in Early Spring 2003. CRRS and CalPIRG will work together in consultation with Campus Supply to develop education materials to support the switch to use of recycled content paper.

## **6 Environmental Sustainability at the UC Berkeley campus**

<p>Goal: To move the campus towards conducting its business to meet its present institutional operating practices and physical development needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p>
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The move toward sustainability on this campus has been less of a focused effort and more of a diffuse conglomeration of activities. Nonetheless, substantial strides have been made towards campus sustainability. The ASUC Senate passed Proposition H, a bill that added an article entitled “Environmental Sustainability” to the ASUC constitution, and is moving towards solar energy for MLK and Eshleman Halls. Capital Projects was sponsored to send two of their planners to the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) training. Projects in the planning stages are now being scrutinized for potential to be built “green”. UC Go Solar organized around energy issues on this campus, and has caught the attention of the Regents with their request for green energy and green buildings. Professor Bill Berry has retooled or designed several of his classes to focus specifically on sustainability issues, including an overenrolled Freshman Seminar, a Sophomore Seminar and an Earth and Planetary Science class focusing on Sustainability. EBMUD continues to work with campus entities to retrofit water devices to maximize conservation. The University of California Office of the President (UCOP) is presently focusing on sustainability issues surrounding energy and green building, and campus students are gathering input for consideration at the UCOP level.

**Next Steps:** This is an increased interest in and need for a central campus entity to focus the various and important sustainability efforts, and to help us plan a more coordinated approach to resource use. The University has the opportunity to lead, and not follow, this curve in higher education. The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Proposal A) is one possible step towards a more focused effort.