

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In April 2007, the Chancellor selected and charged the Campus Task Force on Sustainability, a committee comprised of faculty, students and staff, to provide a candid evaluation of UIC's current sustainability programs and initiatives, compare UIC's environmental performance to recognized benchmarks and recommend a pathway to environmental stewardship for UIC.

The Task Force divided into subcommittees to ensure that all aspects of sustainability at UIC were examined, including energy, transportation, materials flows, pedagogy and outreach. Below is a summary of the committee's recommendations for the campus. Some recommendations may be implemented immediately whereas others may need further consideration and commitment from the campus. However, the creation of this committee highlights the importance of sustainability and its increasing pervasiveness in higher education.

Prior to the Task Force's final report, the committee had recommended that the Chancellor sign the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), which challenges colleges and universities to be climate neutral. On September 14, 2007, the Chancellor signed the ACUPCC, making UIC one of the inaugural signatories of this document. The committee hopes that this level of administrative support continues, as this commitment is crucial for environmental stewardship at UIC.

### **General Recommendations**

- Create and adopt a Campus Sustainability Statement (vision and commitment).
- Establish a campus sustainability office, to be staffed by a sustainability professional with appropriate staff support, to coordinate all campus sustainability efforts.
- Investigate joining the Chicago Climate Exchange as a means of promoting reduced carbon footprint.
- Sign the Talloires Declaration and Illinois Sustainable University Compact.
- Establish a permanent Chancellor's Committee on the Status of the Environment or Campus Sustainability Committee.
- Investigate the possibility of a student fee (with opt out provision) dedicated to student-generated sustainability initiatives, with a possible extension to faculty and staff on volunteer basis.
- Investigate possibility of the establishment of endowments to fund sustainability initiatives, and student research competitions.
- Establish a seed grant program to stimulate new research collaborations.
- Future new construction, remodeling, and renovation projects of \$5 million or greater shall be LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certified. New construction, remodeling, and renovations totally less than \$5 million shall comply with the LEED® Silver requirements to the greatest extent practicable. The relevant sections of LEED® should be used to guide decision making and maximize sustainable practices with regard to materials flow.
- Incorporate the concepts of sustainable planning and development into the Campus Master Plan.
- Join the American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in order to utilize its resources and for benchmarking.
- Using UIC assets, perform an inventory of Greenhouse gas emissions to establish a baseline by which UIC can measure its progress in reducing its carbon "footprint." (An inventory for FY2005 and FY2006 was completed and is provided in Appendix 6)
- Implement campus administrative procedures that emphasize the electronic transfer and approval of information (e.g. forms, agreements, and vouchers) rather than the exchange of hard copy documents or traveling across campus for departmental approvals and signatures.

### Energy-Related Recommendations

- Survey, evaluate and repair/replace as practical, electric, steam, high temperature hot water, and chilled water meters to facilitate measuring energy usage in our facilities. Acquire information on costs at as fine a level of detail as possible.
- Establish appropriate metrics to determine energy reduction goals. Establish a general goal of 20% total energy reduction for the campus in the medium term and a 40% total energy reduction in the long term. Convert all fuels (gasoline, natural gas, etc.) into a common metric (e.g. MMBtu) to determine baseline and savings.
- Conserve water and reduce sewage (combined bill is \$1.25 million annually). Assess status of water meters on campus and determine consumption in gallons. Eliminate single pass cooling systems. Survey laboratory water usage.
- Establish a “shadow” billing program where possible. Using existing metering data, make colleges aware of energy usage within their buildings with the intent of reducing consumption.
- Investigate using Energy Savings Performance Contracts either through third party or University loan.
- Invest in Direct Digital Controls for heating, cooling and ventilation equipment as energy savings measures.
- Develop incentives for energy reduction.
- Publish listings of Energy Awareness measures to campus.

### Transportation-Related Recommendations

- Study whether purchasing energy efficient vehicles such as hybrids or electrics is feasible. Determine if electric vehicles could be used by the campus and recharged overnight, taking advantage of lower prices for externally produced power in evening hours. Consider adding a surcharge to departmental vehicle charges to allow purchase of more expensive hybrids. (N.B.: UIC now has 5 hybrid vehicles).
- Investigate biodiesel trucks as alternatives for service vehicles.
- Study possible alternatives for the parking program. Consider parking incentives for car pooling.
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis, that includes energy, for the shuttle bus system to determine if reduced operating hours, change of routing, and/or smaller vehicles will provide greater efficiency without significant loss of service.
- Commission the Urban Transportation Center to gather data on numbers of UIC faculty, staff, and students using public transportation, driving to work, and cycling to work. Include on-campus transportation data, including the number of individuals who routinely travel between the east, west and south campuses.
- Initiate a project for tracking official air travel.
- Encourage use of the Chicago to Urbana Amtrak train instead of using cars whenever practicable.
- Continue to increase on-campus housing to cut down on commuting.
- Track total fuel consumption by campus owned buses, cars, trucks.

### Materials Flow Recommendations

- Develop and implement a Green Procurement Policy that includes a minimum recycled content of materials, utilization of non-toxic (and less toxic) chemicals (cleaning, research, maintenance, pest control), using life-cycle analysis as a means of comparison.
- Reinvigorate campus recycling program to meet increased recycling goal through promotion, education, installation of bins, and bin maintenance.
- Implement food composting program using the new food service vendor, Sodexo, that has developed programs in other institutions. Give preference to on-site composting and reuse of composted materials on campus.
- Work with Sodexo to establish sustainable food purchases and use of biodegradable packaging in food operations, based on successful programs they have already established.

- Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in place of chemical fertilizer and herbicide programs.
- Use only recycled water for irrigation; reduce amount of run-off through smart (sustainable) landscaping practices including planting native plants, cisterns, and low-impact development (e.g. permeable pavement).
- Establish collection and on-site conversion program for collecting used vegetable oil from campus food services for conversion to biodiesel for campus vehicles and machinery.
- Support implementation and promote usage of user-friendly property management website (under development) that will facilitate intercampus exchange of used furniture and equipment.
- Establish a hazardous waste minimization program, which should be part of overall sustainability policies and practices.
- Coordinate efforts with Sustainability Office to inform faculty, staff, and students of recycling, composting, and green purchasing practices.

#### Pedagogy and Curriculum Recommendations:

- Promote sustainability scholarship at UIC, coordinated by a recognized administrative office.
- Create “The Sustainable City” as part of UIC Identity; no urban university is better positioned than UIC to bring sustainability to cities where most of the human populations now lives.
- Make the obvious connection between sustainability and “Healthy Cities.”
- Make instructional operations truly paperless.
- Ask for impact on sustainability when new courses are proposed, or existing courses evaluated. The number of relevant courses already offered by UIC in CUPAA, COE, LAS, A&A, AHS and other colleges is easily in excess of 50.
- Establish a series of summer institutes for the purpose of assisting faculty in incorporating sustainability principles into their courses.
- Consider project-based courses and other partnership initiatives with local businesses and community organizations.
- Create a cross-college committee to examine new certificate and degree programs in sustainability; e.g. interdisciplinary minor(s) in sustainability. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a School of Sustainable Development.
- Build partnerships with the City of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Morton Arboretum etc., so that the impact of our efforts will be regional. Many consider fresh water the emerging key natural resource locally and globally; Mayor Richard M. Daley put his signature on “Chicago’s Water Agenda 2003,” a landmark strategy to ensure the city maintains a safe, clean, and plentiful supply of drinkable water.
- Make a “green map” of the UIC campus (don’t forget the importance of water!).
- Add environmental impact signage to buildings (public relations and teaching value).
- When evaluating Deans and Vice Chancellors, include contributions to sustainability on campus and off.

#### Outreach Recommendations:

- Create a campus-wide web site dedicated to sustainability; highly visible to students, faculty and staff, located directly from UIC web site through the QuickLinks function and links from the “Living,” “Research,” and “Working” subsections.
- Launch a marketing campaign to faculty, administrators, students, staff and alumni aimed at encouraging sustainable efforts and practices on-campus and at home.
- Publicize sustainability initiative and campus accomplishments not only on campus but also to the community; use these opportunities of recruitment for faculty, staff and students; highlight for development purposes.
- Revive the [greenueic@uic.edu](mailto:greenueic@uic.edu) listserv.