Green Team Forum

In 2016, as part of a series of roundtable discussions with active Green Team members, the forum was intended to evaluate the Green Team available resources. Feedback from the forum would inform the Office of Sustainability strategy for enhancing available resources and the overall program.

Organized by Category of Discussion

Purpose

- Spread and implement ideas (i.e. banning Styrofoam, increasing compost, campus-wide double-sided printing)
- Communicate, adapt, and choose achievable ideas at cross-section of cost, sustainability, and recognition.
- Build awareness, learn about things to do at home and work, educate in a unified manner.
- Unify ideas between departments and green teams, promote and advertise our success, advertise events.
- Ideas and support staying informed about university goals, best practices, focus areas campus wide, other departments
- decide what to purchase
  - Battle greenwashing in marketing campaigns
  - Purchasing guide- bigger issue; communicate it to anyone purchasing which item to buy
- Professional development
  - Green Team Retreat Day with education- open to all what are interested
  - Best practices checklist standardized for all teams
    - Build on independently in each department
    - Ex: from the past: going paperless
- Sustainability in mission or core values? - Institute on Aging department includes sustainability in mission. Is that something more department could achieve?

Structure

- A successful green Team is ever-changing but having goals & attainable structural guidelines to help green team form, use time wisely, stay committed, and report accomplishment.
- Director in department very supportive-more self-fulling, more success
  - Better than side efforts
- Example: Student Affairs brings together all of their sub-department Green Teams
- Sustainability pledge signed by people coming in- accountability, starts conversation, more aware of department/office practices
  - GatorWell and Division of Student Affairs has similar pledge
  - Resources: examples of sustainability pledges for department
- Succession plan as well as a solidified team members

- Mechanism for motivation to prevent "sustainability fatigue" meeting with other green team for inspiration, ideas and encouragement.
  - Beginning of semester, big inter-department meeting additional to emails.
- Example: ICBR uses outlook distribution list for Green Team member and newsletter for people to learn about their green team efforts
  - Successful and lithe unsubscribing
- Need for succession planning-handing of representative duties
  - Co-captain-legacy
- Check-in meeting at least once a semester.
  - Share low hanging fruit, for example; recycling, printing, catering that are best practices at UF and encouraged even if not the cheapest option.
  - Identify and target shared goals. Have concretes checklist. Tips to try to keep people engaged, make of goodwill.

Contributions

- Source of funding for campus-wide initiatives
  - Budgeting concerns- from department? Fundraising?
  - Green Team Fund from the Office of Sustainability.
    - ICBR fundraises via bake sales, etc. to fund Green Team
- Create a Go-TO place to have facts about UF's efforts (especially Green Team efforts individually)
  - All see where we are lacking commonalities
  - Use the same sustainability language
  - All supporting same issue, bigger change
  - Utilize UF facts to create change
    - Stats on bins- not scare tactic images

Communications

- How to convince others/make it easier to make better choices
  - Mandate it? Ex: catering for events, only certain caters- being standardized (no Styrofoam starting in July)
  - Spend a little more, push importance from authority and among colleagues
- Is measurable sustainability communicated? - Numbers, data, statistics?
- Get in a habit of reporting to the Office of Sustainability on individual green team updates
  - Avenue for communication
  - Template "meeting minutes" from for green team meeting to send to office
- UF SharePoint, sustainability portal for green team
  - Helps connect more established teams' ideas
  - FAQs, department contacts, accomplishments (public component)
  - Reach out to President Fuchs because he seem transparent and open to sustainability goals
  - Not everyone can use Facebook and social media at work.
- Formal communication between departments where green team may feel isolated.

- Instead of starting from scratch getting ideas from a centralized resources to build off of.
- Give of office update of construction standards changing in order to up conversation for feedback as well as provide information and reasoning
  - Voices allow for opinions and to see what is or is not working.
  - Issues of not enough manpower on conversation opened campus-wide
- Sustainable new blurbs on splash page on my.ufl.edu
  - Other methods of reaching people
- Sustainability can be a "feather in the hat" of a recruitment strategy

Sharing & Networking

- Get more students involved
  - Attract students at preview with sustainability information
  - Ex: Good Food Revolution book
  - Addressing why a lot of student don't care
- Revising sustainable purchasing- Green Team can help their purchasing department
- Shared archive folder among Green Teams?
- Networking event among teams to share ideas
- Connecting new teams and old team- highlighting a team in the newsletter
  - Showcasing variety of teams and what they do
- Monthly email
- What can each team contribute to the network?
  - Policy/law, PPD, purchasing-their area of focus in their department.
- Events calendar of green Team event/meeting open to all

Support from the Office of Sustainability as a central hub

- Resources for Green Team Network
  - More regular, meeting-reporting and share ideas.
  - Resources among whole network
- Source of funding for campus-wide initiatives
  - Green Team Fund from the Office of Sustainability.
- Education- uniformity as well as communication between department about what they do
- More information on Green Team page on sustainability website
  - Help with justification to director with more information
    - Ex: requesting more waste bins
- Someone from the Office of Sustainability visits Green Team meeting 2-4 times a year to be aware of department's initiatives ahead of time.
  - Useful resource with other teams.
- "10 First Things" and startup checklist for New Teams
  - Standardized sustainability audit: est. baseline and make strategy plan based on BMPs

- Includes stats on purchasing-how much money is spent on Styrofoam vs. services for employees, etc.?
- Print photos of landfills and effected wildlife and put them on bins.
  - "UF Trying to reduce impact" this is why it matters show habitat being affected.
- Green Team Portal with login on sustainable.ufl.edu website
  - Monthly listerv email detailing past month's progress and upcoming initiatives, challenges, etc.
- Meeting could include a V.P. (Curtis Reynolds) or President Fuchs or someone of great influence.
- Create University minimums and policies, tie to performance evaluations to require strides towards sustainability
  - Some departments already include sustainability in evaluations expand on this, especially for management positions.

Misc.

- Issue: LEED department building- internal practices not matching certification
- Get bins from Physical Plant Department easier
- Sponsor competition among team based on audits-facility inventories-base renovations off inventories.
  - Waste, energy, consumption-some challenges where meters are set up in building
  - Common indicators
- Water fountains filters, bottle fillers
  - Problem with PPD labor and funds
- Caters don't know and throw everything away at events making them non-sustainable
- Potentially have edible plants on campus and promoted so people know/access
  - Hand sanitizer near trash/recycling if people want to sort out mis-sorted items but are hindered by unsanitary aspect (also health)
- Expand and promote programs like paper towel compost.
- Some programs may plateau but need to be re-vamped such as Housing Eco-challenge and Move-out recycling in spring
  - Not just adequacy, but preeminence
- Catering issue rating system of caters that agree/comply with UF regulations.
- Green Team news in weekly newsletter
  - Sign up people on green team (they might not all get emails)