

UTBEAT Meeting
16 Jan 2008

Present

Elah, Christian, Patti, Maria, Jessica F, Simona, Donna, Jessica K, Laura T,
Laura S, Cameron, Greta, Ying, Parth

Guest: Ian Carson, RW and ESC Building Manager

1. Introduction of meeting guest, Property Manager Ian
 - a. Elah described UTBEAT mandate to Ian

2. Discussion of Composting Project with Property Manager Ian
 - b. Elah and Simona (with input from Laura T and Donna) described the current state of composting in ESC, RW, and Forestry
 - c. Simona described the plan for moving from sporadic compost collection with off-site composting to more wide-spread collection with on-site composting
 - d. Several issues were introduced regarding the feasibility of carrying out long-term composting within ESC, RW, and Forestry
 - e. how to ensure continuity in spite of personnel turn-over
 - i. suggestion: compost collectors are responsible for finding their own replacements
 - f. how to ensure vermin does not become a problem for out-door compost sites
 - i. suggestion: bins will be lined with old paper (to reduce odour), no meat/dairy will be permitted, and aeration holes will be small & gated, to prevent animal entry
 - g. what will be done with compost soil once it accumulates
 - i. suggestion: composting will be given to U of T gardening groups, or used within ESC, RW and Forestry for decorative plants
 - h. where will outdoor composting bins be located
 - i. suggestion: bin will be placed in ESC courtyard with the specific location depending on input from department CEOs, and no bin will be placed in zoo woods until after proof-of-concept is obtained
 - i. - ACTION: Simona and Ian will arrange meetings with department CEOs to ensure details are appropriate

2. Review of Disposable Dish Reduction Project (Project leader, Jessica F)
 - a. Jessica F reviewed goal (reduce use of disposable dishware at departmental functions) and her discussion of subject with Rob Baker (EEB Chair)

- b. Baker seemed positive about the project goal, and directed Jessica to Jan Haugan (Baker's secretary, and coordinator of many departmental social events)
- c. There are a few issues that require consideration
- d. the department is reluctant to support financially costly proposals (i.e., only dealing with caterers that provide their own reusable dishware)
 - i. suggestion: purchase own dishware for departmental usage
- e. should the department purchase own dishware, the logistics of cleaning such large amounts of dishware may be prohibitive
 - i. suggestion: attendees should bring own reusable dishware
- f. should attendees bring their own reusable dishware, alcoholic drinks will still require separate cups provided by beverage services
 - i. suggestion: until a suitable solution can be decided on, focus should be on reducing the amount of non-recyclable waste material generated at social functions
- g. - ACTION: Jessica F will bring up topic at EGSA grad-student meeting as regards the EEB colloquium/Atwood Lecture social functions

3. Review of Paper Re-use Project (Project leader, Greta)

- a. Greta reviewed goal (encourage re-use of scrap paper generated at department/lab photocopiers and printers by providing scrap-paper trays to interested participants)
- b. There are a few issues that require consideration
- c. permission from departmental CEOs will be required before paper storage boxes can be placed in photocopier rooms
- d. some locations may generate excess scrap paper, beyond capacity to reuse
 - i. suggestion: such paper can be collected and used to create bound notebooks
- e. boxes will need to be provided to interested participants
 - i. suggestion: plastic trays could be obtained from Terry (RW shipping and receiving)
 - ii. suggestion: 'public' spots, such as in the ESC library, may require more professional looking storage boxes, perhaps purchased from IKEA
- f. - ACTION: Greta will investigate possible locations from paper storage boxes, as prep for putting together a UTERN grant proposal

4. Review of Double-Sided Paper Project (Project leader, Elah)

- a. Elah noted that BIO250 has begun double-siding paper, and provided a link to the UTBEAT website from the BIO250 class

website

- 5.- ACTION:Elah will find which departments have begun requesting double-sided printing, in order to better convince the department to make double-sided printing an official requirement
- 6.Forestry Update (Laura T)
 - a. Laura noted that double-sided thesis binding is now an official option in the Forestry department
- 7.Promotions Update (Maria)
 - a. Maria applying to UTERN for money to finance the production of quality (colour, laminated) signs advertising UTBEAT suggestions (e.g., regarding leaky faucets, reduced elevator usage)
 - b. Elah suggested making and distributing lower-quality signs in the meantime (no colour, unlaminated)
 - c. ACTION - Elah will invite UTERN rep to next meeting
- 8.Undergrad Update
 - a. In order to advertise upcoming meetings to undergrads, meeting times will need to be decided upon
 - b. ACTION - Next meeting set for Wed Feb 13, 12-1, in same meeting room (ESC 3044) (2nd Wednesday of the month)
 - c. ACTION - Maria will create a UTBEAT facebook page to help attract interested undergraduates
 - d. ACTION - overheads will be made to advertise meetings at undergraduate classes (pending approval by Maria)
 - e. ACTION - Maria will post an advertisement on BIOME
 - f. ACTION - Ying will look into getting an announcement on UTLIFE
- 9.Proposed New Project by Laura
 - a. Encourage the department and classes to use only FEC certified paper (paper created by companies with sustainable forestry practices)
 - b. Agreed that Laura will lead this new project