

Recycling Task Force Update 4/16/15

The committee met on March 3, 2015. Agenda items included discussion of the next initiative of the task force. Recycling of printer cartridges and electronics was reviewed. Currently the college recycles printer cartridges with HP, but receives no fee, rebate or discount for doing so. After review of the process for collection and return, and review of the rates of reimbursement, the task force decided against this as its next initiative. The task force will continue to explore options with HP. Information Technology is exploring this now under a point system toward future purchases.

The task force reviewed water bottle full stations. The stations look like a modified water fountain and easily fit between existing wall studs. The stations have conventional water fountains at the front of the station and a wall water spout for filling water bottles. The stations also contain a counter that counts off the number of water bottles saved from the landfill each time a bottle is filled. The task force unanimously endorsed this as its next initiative. Year end funds have been requested for 8 stations. Suggestion was made for the EGSC bookstore to sell Nalgene bottles with the Bobcat logo for use by campus community to help promote the use of the water bottle filling stations. Recommendations were made to work toward getting this in place in time for a "kick off" at Fall Workshop in August 2015. The task force discussed asking the bookstore to offer a discount on the bottles during the workshop and the first week of Fall semester to encourage use and gain momentum for the initiative. The task force will work with Norma Kennedy to promote the college's attainment of the stations and the availability of the bottles in the bookstore. See attached photo of water bottle fillings station.

Food Service: The committee explored the elimination of styrofoam from dining services. Currently Styrofoam is used for cups and to go container. Ruth Under wood is investigating a reusable food container that students would use and return to dining hall for cleaning. She is also investigating a reusable Bobcat cup that could be issued to students for use in dining hall. She also recommended that the college go to tray less dining. She explained the time and space requirements of cleaning and drying the trays: trays must be washed and air dried in a standing position. Due to the number of trays this requires a lot of drying space. She will bring costs and cost savings of tray less dining to the next meeting.