DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY
2012-2013 Initiatives and Ongoing Practices

Dining and Culinary Services

2012-2013

Opened Gordon Dining and Events Center and Four Lakes Market in Dejope

- Added two pulpers to maximize organic waste composting efforts; Housing sends 4500 pounds/week of organic food waste for composting from new Gordon (compared to 1800 pounds/week in old Gordon). The pulpers also add a recycled water component to the dish line.
- Developed automated systems to minimize over production of food with marketplace operations. Precise recording of leftover food and weekly inventories allow for bringing in food and supplies just in time for production. The marketplace service style, with customized food prepared in front of guests, has consistently reduced waste by 50% versus the former traditional service style.
- Energy reduction is a focus in both buildings.
  - Moved the Gordon waste oil boiler to new Gordon, which reduces energy use by 30-35 MBtus/month.
  - Efficient hot water usage in each building (reduction from 15,000 gallons to 6,000 gallons/day from old to new Gordon).
  - Installed more efficient mechanicals, refrigeration and many energy certified appliances which assist in reducing energy use.

Ongoing

- Deliver useable, safe surplus to Second Harvest Food Bank of South Central Wisconsin. In 2012, Housing provided 4541 meals in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank to end hunger.
- Commitment to provide vegan offerings for customers includes made-to-order stations and a salad bar that is open during most operating hours.
- Dining consistently develops vegan soup and dessert recipes.
- Compost all vegetable food waste and paper products used in the food preparation process.
- Dining staff composites food waste left on diners' trays.
- Refillable mugs for hot and cold beverages are available and users receive a price break.
- Allow carry-out of china from Dining venues; provide drop-off in residence halls.
- Provide disposable carryout containers made with recyclable materials which are also compostable. No Styrofoam containers are used.
Silverware is located in the dining room after customers purchase food, so customers can choose only the needed pieces. Napkins made of recycled material are placed on tables to promote using “just what is needed” during a meal. Specification: 1/8 fold two-Ply, White/100% Recycled. Use a waste oil boiler in Gordon promoting the use of recycled vegetable oil; it also creates less reliance on traditional heating methods and creates an energy savings of 30-35 MBtu/month. Dining staff work with produce cooperatives to purchase local produce. Train employees to take a smarter approach to dish-washing, including shutting down the dish machine whenever possible. All Dining and Culinary Services delivery trucks use bio-fuel.

Residence Halls Facilities

2012-2013

Opened Gordon Dining and Events Center, Dejope and Aldo Leopold Halls

Began use of energy recovery wheels, natural ventilation and fan coil units to create energy efficiency and customer comfort (Dejope, Leopold, also Chadbourne). Installed domestic solar hot water systems to offset water heating costs (Dejope, Leopold). Improved storm water diversion and management in all three new buildings (e.g. bio-retention areas and rain gardens); green roofs in Gordon and Dejope. Dejope received a Focus on Energy grant for planned energy reduction. Aldo Leopold will be the first LEED certified Division of University Housing building (certification is in process). Introduced a green cleaning program which uses cleaning methods, products and equipment that help protect personal health and the environment. Clean seven buildings (Bradley, Phillips, Dejope, Kronshage, Sullivan, Cole, Leopold) with ozonated water which virtually eliminates the need to clean with chemicals. Starting in 2012, all mattresses purchased contain completely recyclable materials. Placed water bottle filling stations in each residence hall. There are 27 filling stations, most of which were co-funded by WE Conserve. Implemented student-room recycling bin program (cans-glass-plastic, mixed paper, landfill) and education materials in conjunction with WE Conserve. Initiated a pilot program for E-Waste towers at Holt and Gordon. Installed a bike repair station and air pump in the Lakeshore area, co-funded by Transportation Services.
Increased recycling and donation efforts for move-out program. In addition to metal and e-waste, mattresses and futons were added to recycling categories.

Installed energy monitoring dash board systems that allow students to see their energy consumption. The pilot program uses a limited number of rooms in Cole and Chadbourne (monitors by room). Leopold was built with the ability to monitor energy use by floor; this will be implemented in the future.

Increased bike parking and created safer moped parking at Ogg Hall, with joint funding from Transportation Services.

Styrofoam recycling was added to select Housing processes (e.g. move-in, student room refrigerator packaging)

**Ongoing**

Use toilet paper, paper towels, and plastic bags made with recycled materials.

Resident room refrigerators are Energy Star rated; estimated annual electricity use is 207 kWh.

Purchase carpet manufactured in a sustainable process, when possible.

Purchase furnishings manufactured locally, when possible.

Installed individual controls for Smith, Ogg, Leopold, Adams, and Tripp Hall residents to control heat and cooling in their rooms. There is a plan to continue adding individual controls as buildings are renovated.

Monitor and manage building systems by computer software to more efficiently identify and address heating and cooling issues that arise in large buildings.

Replace the low flow flush mechanism for toilets as buildings are renovated.

Operate a Division furniture reuse program. Select furniture is stored and refurbished (if required) by the Division upholstery shop and reused as needed.

Replace tank-style water heaters (600 to 875 gallons) with semi-instantaneous type (20 to 30 gallons).

Schedule opening and closing procedures to minimize energy use.

Install motion detector switches for lighting where practical.

Replace incandescent lighting with compact fluorescents or LED, since 2008.

As of 2006, switched from electric to gas clothes dryers where possible, purchase only Energy Star rated appliances during remodels. Front loading Energy Star appliances typically use 20% less energy and 35% less water

Develop preventive maintenance programs to keep HVAC systems working at peak levels.

Install shower heads and sink faucets which meet current efficiency standards.

Evaluate automatic valves’ efficiency on toilets, urinals and sinks. Some situations warrant manual operation when the automatic failure rate is too high.
Residents provide their own towels in non-public residence halls bathrooms to reduce the amount of paper towel waste. Provide the opportunity for students to compost consumer food waste within the residence halls. The program began with Cole Hall in 2010 and has expanded to Chadbourne, Sullivan, and Leopold.

**Residence Life**

**2012-13**

Assigned two Involvement Coordinators to focus on student-driven sustainability initiatives. Participated in RecycleMania and Campus Conservation Nationals (CCN), collegiate sustainability competitions. Developed the first Housing student leader sustainability training, in conjunction with the Office of Sustainability and WE Conserve. The training focused on a new resident-room recycling bin program, spreading the message of sustainability to other students, and access to sustainability resources. Recruited over 100 student volunteers to assist with recycling sites at move-out, resulting in over 47 tons of donated and recycled items. Created a recycling guide which was distributed to all student rooms and Housing staff, designed to reduce waste stream contamination.

**Ongoing**

The GreenHouse Residential Learning Community, which opened in Cole Hall in 2010, moved to the newly constructed Aldo Leopold Hall in fall 2013. The hall will be LEED certified and has a sustainable focus with a working green house. Emphasis will be placed on sustainable food and urban agriculture. Support student-generated activities and ideas. Educate residents about sustainability activities and groups.

**University Apartments**

**2012-2013**

Created four bio-retentions areas, two bio-retention basins in Eagle Heights and two rain gardens in University Houses, in areas that were previously mowed lawn. With co-funding from the Department of Natural Resources, the areas are planted with native herbaceous plants, which collect sediments and slow water before it enters the lake and provide food and homes to native wildlife. Installed water bottle filling stations to the Apartment Facilities Office and the Community Center.
Grants were awarded to Eagle’s Wing Child Care program for the continuation and development of the children’s Peace Garden.

**Ongoing**

All carpet removed from apartments is recycled. Purchase of replacement carpet uses a dye process which uses much less water than in typical carpeting manufacturing.
Natural salt is used for snow melt.
Maintain "low mow" (mowed one to two times per year) grassy areas since 2007.
Install energy-efficient boilers as replacements, which save 25% in natural gas. Received Focus on Energy grants for upgrades in boiler replacements.
Manage one of the largest student-run community gardens in the United States, which has over 500 gardens.
Provide children with the opportunity to learn about how food grows and the art of gardening through the Eagle’s Wing Peace Garden.
Continue replacement of low flow toilets and shower heads.
Offer recycling education that is geared toward an international community.
Provide Energy Star apartment and laundry appliances. Front loading Energy Star laundry appliances typically use 20% less energy and 35% less water.
Develop preventive maintenance programs which keep HVAC systems working at peak levels. Received Focus on Energy grants for boiler cleaning.
Offer a Community Car program to University Apartments residents.

**Summer Programs**

Pre-college counselor orientations include environmental awareness and also incorporates sustainability reference material on the Summer Programs web section.

**IT**

Servers are reconfigured to a virtual environment, reducing power consumption.
Purchase Energy Star computer/audio visual equipment wherever possible.
50 of 71 printers have the default set to duplex printing; older printers will be replaced with the duplexing option as they are replaced.

Updated: November 2013