

## Discussion Summary for May 10, 2006 Meeting

- The second meeting of this Team was held on May 10. The main goals of this meeting were to make Team members aware of ongoing environmental projects and to identify new environmental projects for this Team to pursue.
- Team was briefed on the sustainability efforts being made by UK and the manner in which UK 's Sustainability Team was formed. It was noted that that UK 's Sustainability Team, which meets monthly, has been in existence for four years and the initial impetus for creating the Team came from UK students. Some highlights of this briefing included:
  - The UK Team places an emphasis on academics and sustainability curriculum. The Team also focuses on community outreach, transportation, and storm water management.
  - Students recently voted to enact a \$6.00 to \$8.00 fee (effective fall semester of '07) to be spent promoting sustainability, which will raise approximately 400 K per year for sustainability efforts. It is anticipated that the initial funds will be spent on renewable energy (in this case wind energy).
  - UK recently created a full time position to promote recycling in dorms and apartments.
  - UK is starting a new living/learning community this August that will focus on sustainability. This initiative will initially involve several floors of a dormitory. Student interest in this program appears to be high.
  - Utilities at UK can be controlled from one central point; this allows UK to reduce costs by controlling heating and cooling at all buildings on campus.
  - UK uses electric golf carts for some campus operations and is getting ready to try out a golf cart with a solar roof.

- The Team thanked UK for hosting the recent tour of UK 's EQMC (hazardous materials) facility.
- LFUCG Public Works employees briefed Team on Spring Clean HHW collection results. The amount of material collected during the April 22 event exceeded expectations; 1860 cars were offloaded representing 1900 households. The mercury collection and thermometer swap went well.
- It was noted the Lexington Recycling Center expansion was nearly complete. A second sorting screen was installed and the facility expanded by approx 10,000 sq ft.
- Team was updated on LFUCG Public Works contract with Pride to promote recycling. This initiative will focus on schools, apartment buildings, community education, and designing the interactive display at the Recycling Center .
- It was noted that Senate Bill 50 had passed the state legislature and this bill now gives communities the flexibility to spend Pride cleanup funds for recycling and HHW collection (provided all dumps in the county had been cleaned up first).
- It was also noted that Lexington ranked 12 th nationally (out of 252 cities surveyed) in the recent Green Guide survey.
- KY Project EXCEL program. Joining Project EXCEL may be a good initiative for the Partnership to consider. Information on Project EXCEL was included in member's packets.
- Team was briefed on MIT grant SECAT had recently received to study strategies to increase recycling. The study as envisioned would rebate a portion of the participant's trash bill based on their recycling rate (there would be 24 cells of 20 participants). The study would also test the effectiveness of particular recycling messages. Lexington and Bowling Green are the two communities the study will focus on.
- It was noted that several cities in the northeast recently began using an innovative approach (Recycling Bank) to enhance recycling that provides rebates to participants. There was discussion as to whether this approach could be used to support our local recycling efforts.

- Opportunities to increase recycling at public gatherings and sports venues (particularly UK football games) were discussed.

- Potential projects were discussed for our Team to tackle. This include (1) recycling at sporting events; (2) disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals and personal care products; (3) battery and cell phone recycling; (4) beneficial use of street sweepings; (5) universal waste; (6) mulch/compost use; (7) CD&D management; (8) general expansion of recycling among partners; (9) recycling competition; (10) biodegradable waste (grease, utensils, food wastes); (11) waste grease to biodiesel and; (12) expanding yard waste program. After some discussion, the Team decided to initially focus on one project and that the first project would be an initiative to promote can recycling. The Team requested that the chairperson identify a project for the Team to consider. It was noted that the “Cash for Cans” recycling competition (sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors) might be a good project to pursue.

- Team named was reviewed. Members wanted to avoid the word waste if possible. After some discussion Team voted to change the name to the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Team.

- The next meeting will be held 1:30 on July 19th at the Lexington Recycling Center located at 360 Thompson Road .

--Tom Webb, Team Leader