



Meeting Summary  
November 14, 2014

**Council Members Present:**

Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance (Chair)  
Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Steve Fetter, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs  
Russell Furr, Director of the Department of Environmental Safety  
Scott Lupin, Associate Director of Environmental Safety and Director of the Office of Sustainability  
David Lovell, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
David Cooper, Assistant Director of IT Operations  
Matthew Dahlhausen, Graduate Student, Mechanical Engineering  
Ori Gutin, Director of Sustainability, Student Government Association

**Guests:**

Bob Reuning, Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer, Facilities Management  
Maya Spaur, Student, Student Sustainability Council

Meeting start time: 10:00

Meeting Highlights

**Welcome and Review of October 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The council welcomed Bob Reuning, the new Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer for Facilities Management.

**Highlights from the SustainableUMD Magazine and Celebration Event**

Scott Lupin summarized the success of the SustainableUMD Magazine publication. The Celebration Event that launched the magazine was held on October 29 and attended by approximately 150 people. Collin Beavan, better known as "No Impact Man," was the keynote speaker for the event.

**Discussion on the University Sustainability Goals**

Scott Lupin presented the revised Sustainability Goals, which were developed in order to bring together several sustainability related goals that were previously in numerous campus documents. The major goal areas are:

- Carbon neutrality
- Education for Sustainability
- Local and Global Impact
- Smart Growth
- Sustainable Water Use
- Waste Minimization

Scott stated that the goals will likely be modified in the future as the university progresses with its sustainability initiatives. Future progress reports will be structured around these goal areas. The goals document will be used for both external purposes (sharing the university's sustainability initiatives with other campuses) and internal purposes (setting clear priorities for sustainability initiatives on campus).

### **Letter to Maryland Day Planning Committee**

The council expressed concern regarding the environmental impact of the Maryland Day event. Individually packaged meals, as well as free giveaways, generate unnecessary waste. The Council unanimously approved of a letter to be sent to the Maryland Day Planning Committee, which included five major areas that the event could improve its environmental impact.

1. Continue to provide adequate alternatives to bottled water, such as bottle filling stations
2. Identify alternatives to the traditional cotton volunteer t-shirts
3. Minimize waste from lunches by eliminating the individually packaged lunches
4. Enhance the publicity for green initiatives that occur at the event
5. Embrace the spirit of Maryland Day and minimize giveaways

The Council unanimously approved of the letter to be sent by Carlo Colella to the Maryland Day Planning Committee.

### **Procurement Letter – EPP Policy on General Purpose Paper**

Procurement, with support from the Office of Sustainability, issued a memo to unit buyers reminding them of the campus Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy. In particular, the Council sought issuance of the memo to remind buyers of the EPP mandate to only purchase 100% post-consumer recycled content copy paper. The memo also identified sugar cane based paper as an alternative.

### **University Sustainability Fund Projects**

The University Sustainability Fund has changed the deadlines for submitting project proposals as a pilot project. The deadline for faculty and staff to submit proposals is now October 1, and the deadline for students to submit proposals is January 15. Twenty proposals have been submitted as of the October 1 deadline. The following are proposals that the Council reviewed.

#### Campus Creek Restoration

The Campus Creek Restoration proposal requested \$50,000 from the Council to pay for a contractor to develop a restoration plan. The State of Maryland has agreed to pay \$1.5 million toward construction costs, however the university must provide the funding for the restoration design and permitting. The restoration would focus on mitigating the extensive erosion that has taken place along the creek and improve two existing ponds on the Golf Course. The proposal is of particular interest to the Council because restoration of the Campus Creek was an area identified in need of improvement in the Sustainable Water Use and Watershed Report.

Some members of the Council expressed concerned over the proposal because they did not feel that it showed how the proposed improvements would be measured following construction. The Council discussed whether this effort should also be supported by a review of pesticide and fertilizer use at the Golf Course. The Council also discussed using water from the two golf course ponds for irrigation, which was not included in the proposal. The Council unanimously approved the request for \$50,000 from the Sustainability Fund with the condition that the Golf Course undertake a review to identify and implement opportunities that would reduce pollutant loading into Campus Creek.

The Next Wave of Environmentalism: Expanding Organics Collection into Academic and Administrative Buildings on the University of Maryland, College Park Campus

Facilities Management requested \$51,681 to implement a compost collection system in all campus academic and administrative buildings by August 31, 2016.

Some members of the Council expressed concern over the proposal as it was not clear whether the composting would actually reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from campus. However, other members of the Council argued that the campus needed a consistent waste collection system, as the sporadic use of compost bins in some buildings created confusion as to what should be thrown away, recycled and composted. The Council decided to delay voting on the proposal until the following areas of concern are addressed:

1. The Council did not believe there were enough funds allocated for signs and decals, and would like to see a greater emphasis on this component of the compost program.
2. Specific data needs to be presented to show a positive environmental impact.
3. A cost/benefit analysis needs to be completed to show a positive overall impact.

Student Affairs Waste Assessment

Student Affairs submitted a proposal requesting \$18,000 to complete a waste audit from several buildings on campus. The purpose of the assessment is to assess the adequacy of the current waste separation system in Student Affairs buildings and to determine the benefit of expanding compostable waste collection. The last waste audit completed on campus occurred in 2008. The Council agreed to approve the request for \$18,000.

**New Issues/Issues from Committee Members**

Carlo Colella asked Sally DeLeon, of the Office of Sustainability, to explain to the Council why the 2005 campus greenhouse gas baseline emissions changed. Sally explained that the EPA changed the emission factor for landfills that did not recover and beneficially use methane. The new emission factor results in higher emissions from such facilities. Since the university largely sent its refuse to a landfill that did not recover methane in 2005, the greenhouse gas emission baseline increased. Presently, the university sends its refuse to a landfill that collects the methane it generates.

Adjourn: 11:55

To: Peter Weiler  
Vice President, University Relations

From: Carlo Colella  
Vice President, Administration and Finance  
On behalf of the University Sustainability Council

Date: November 14, 2014

Maryland Day is a showcase event for the University of Maryland and our opportunity to engage the community in learning, exploration, and discovery. The day offers more than 400 festivities including exhibits, workshops, hands-on demonstrations and performances that highlight the exciting and unique work in which University of Maryland staff, students and faculty participate.

An event of this magnitude, with thousands of visitors each year, can have a significant environmental impact. Over the years, the Maryland Day Steering and Planning Committees have adopted many practices that have reduced the environmental impact of this event. But, as the university works towards meeting its carbon neutral goal by 2050, we must continually find new ways to reduce our energy, waste and water footprints. To that end, and on behalf of the University Sustainability Council, we wish to provide you with a number of recommendations for the continued greening of Maryland Day:

## **1. Continue to provide adequate alternatives to bottled water.**

### **Issue:**

Bottled water is primarily a waste issue. It is commonly sold at Maryland Day and its purchase popularity increases with the outdoor temperature. While plastic water bottles are recyclable, about 70 percent end up in the trash. Almost 40 percent of bottled water actually started out as tap water, but costs 1,000 times more for consumers. Bottled water could become an image issue for the University of Maryland as increasing numbers of people, especially students, associate bottled water with unsustainable behavior.

### **Opportunities:**

- Advertise the network of more than 80 bottle filling stations in academic and administrative buildings on campus. Detailed map can be found at [http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/culture/filling\\_stations\\_map.php](http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/content/culture/filling_stations_map.php)
- Continue to provide and refill portable water bottle filling stations on McKeldin Mall and Hornbake Plaza. Work with Dining Services to ensure that portable filling stations are staffed with volunteers and refilled on a regular basis. Work with the Student Sustainability Committee of the SGA to tap into student volunteer resources.
- Encourage visitors to bring their own bottle and refill at our many indoor and outdoor filtered water stations.
- Provide a reusable water bottle as a Maryland Day giveaway.

## **2. Identify alternatives to traditional cotton volunteer t-shirts.**

### **Issue:**

On average, 8,000 traditional cotton t-shirts are produced and handed out to volunteers for Maryland Day. Traditional cotton is a resource intensive fabric that uses 713 gallons of water, generates 8.8 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions and creates about a pound of solid waste for each shirt. The distribution of traditional t-shirts could also become an image issue for the University as visitors, students and staff become more informed about their environmental impact.

**Opportunities:**

- Print t-shirts without a date on them so that one shirt design could be used over multiple years. New volunteers could be given a shirt as required, but returning volunteers could wear their shirt from the previous year.
- Provide recycled cotton blend t-shirts to volunteers. Recycled cotton blend shirts have a significantly lower environmental impact than traditional cotton shirts but have a higher cost.
- Develop and print Maryland Day buttons/badges that can help identify Maryland Day volunteers. These can be collected at the end of the day and used in subsequent years.
- Provide an alternative “thank-you”. Examples include: a free ice cream from the Dairy, a coupon for a free coffee, or an entry ticket to win a larger prize.

**3. Minimize the impact of volunteer lunches.**

**Issue:** Roughly 5,000 volunteers received lunches for Maryland Day. These lunches are provided in a plastic bag and include: a plastic-wrapped sandwich, a single use water bottle, individually-packaged cookies and pretzels. A significant waste footprint can be attributed to these lunches.

**Opportunities:**

- Provide buffet lunches for volunteers in multiple, centrally-located spaces.
- Offer a lunch voucher for volunteers to select a lunch from one of our many Dining Services locations. Most food packaging on Maryland Day is compostable.
- Allow larger volunteer groups to pick-up lunches as pre-prepared platters, minimizing the need for individual packaging.
- Provide alternative volunteer compensation.

**4. Enhance profile of green initiatives at the Maryland Day.**

**Issue:**

The green initiatives undertaken for Maryland Day do not receive the profile they deserve. Higher education is often seen as a societal leader in making sustainability a business priority. This is a prime opportunity for the University of Maryland to showcase its efforts to host a green event. The general public who receive the printed program or visit the website may be unaware of green initiatives such as the bike valet, water filling stations, composting, and more. Environmental information is fragmented and often incomplete.

**Opportunities:**

- Highlight sustainability initiatives in the Maryland Day printed program.
- Create a webpage (with its own tab) on the Maryland Day home page to highlight our green initiatives. This page can become a model for other organizations planning large events. Extend this information to the Maryland Day app.

- The Office of Sustainability can provide “Get Caught Green Handed” volunteers who will recognize and reward visitors who are taking environmentally-friendly steps. Over time, green behavior can become part of the culture of this event.

## **5. Embrace the spirit of Maryland Day and minimize giveaways.**

### **Issue:**

Many visitors have adopted the behavior of coming to Maryland Day with an empty bag, hoping to fill it with a variety of small, often disposable, giveaway items. The true value of Maryland Day is the interactions between visitors and our students, staff and faculty. Our exhibitors often feel like they must provide a giveaway item for our visitors in order for them to have a great Maryland Day experience.

### **Opportunities:**

- Through Planning Committee meetings, promote experiences rather than giveaways.
- Work with the Office of Sustainability to provide a list of environmentally-friendly and minimally packaged giveaways or prizes for planning committee members.
- Consider more durable promotional items that directly connect to the mission/goals of each college or department.
- Encourage exhibitors to enhance language in their program write-ups to showcase their learning opportunities or interactivity, rather than prizes.
- Offer a prize for most sustainable or most interactive Maryland Day exhibit.

Maryland Day is also a wonderful opportunity to share our campus with prospective students. Research, in Princeton Review's 2008 and 2009 College Hopes & Worries Survey as well as from UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, shows that a significant, and growing, proportion of prospective students are making decisions about where to apply and attend based on campus sustainability performance. The University of Maryland can demonstrate its sustainability performance to prospective students on Maryland Day by showcasing our green initiatives.

Many campus events are now waste free, from the annual Crab Feast to football and basketball games. The University Sustainability Council encourages you and your Planning and Steering Committees to continue to find ways to make Maryland Day a showcase of learning and sustainability. The Student Sustainability Committee of the SGA and The Office of Sustainability can provide you with other suggestions and opportunities and can assist you in executing the suggestions listed above.



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND


DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

Room 2113-R Chesapeake Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742-3111  
301.405.5813 TEL 301.314.9565 FAX

## MEMORANDUM

Date: November 6, 2014

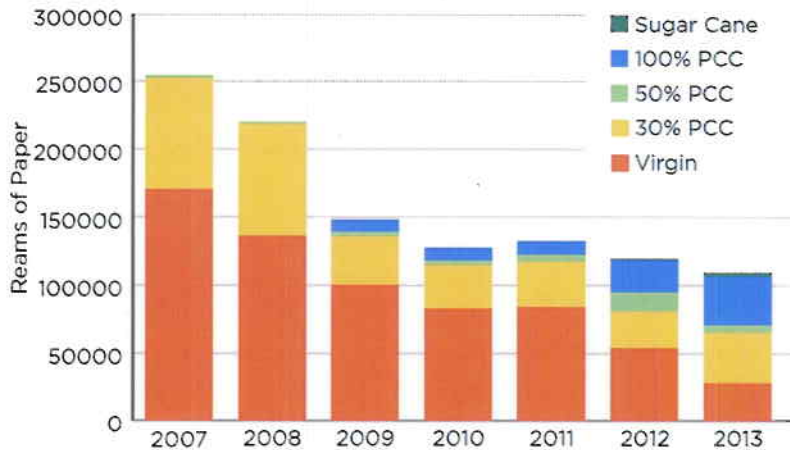
To: College/Department Business Officers

From: James Stirling, Director, Procurement and Supply 

Re: **Policy VIII-3.10(C), University of Maryland Policies and Procedures for Environmentally Preferable Procurement – 100% Recycled or Tree-Free Paper**

Over the past seven years, University of Maryland departments reduced copy paper consumption from 260,000 to 110,000 reams per year and switched to primarily using paper made from recycled content.

### COPY PAPER CONSUMPTION



**75%**  
**of paper**

purchased by campus departments for general office use was manufactured from post-consumer recycled content (PCC) or sugarcane—a rapidly renewable material.



Collectively, these actions have:

- saved departments nearly \$350,000,
- saved approximately 1,600 tons of trees from being cut down,\*
- and prevented more than two million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.\*

The Department of Procurement and Supply and the Office of Sustainability applaud your efforts to reduce paper consumption and use more recycled content paper, however, **we remind all departments that it is University policy to purchase only general purpose paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled content or tree-free materials such as sustainably grown sugarcane.**

Search our office supply master contracts for products that meet these requirements at <http://www.purchase.umd.edu/general/mcontract.htm>. You may also contact General Stores personnel at (301) 405-7337 to request assistance.

\* Source: Environmental Paper Network. <http://c.environmentalpaper.org>