**College of Engineering – Sustainability Engagement Post Survey**

**Executive Summary**

The purpose of this survey was to gain knowledge of the College of Engineering’s (COE) staff, faculty, and graduate perspective and feedback on the Think Big, Live Green campaign that launched in September 2013.

**Research Design:**

Energy & Sustainability developed the overall research design and questionnaire for the Sustainability Research Survey. Input from the COE was also incorporated in the survey. The Cornell Survey Research Institute (SRI) provided valuable input on survey design, methods, and interpretation. The survey was administered by Energy & Sustainability in the College of Engineering from April 28th, 2014 to May 27th, 2014. An email invitation was sent to all COE staff, faculty, and graduate students from the COE Dean’s Office, encouraging participation in the survey. Energy & Sustainability and COE staff is responsible for determining and implementing necessary changes to outreach programs and strategies as indicated by survey responses within the College of Engineering.

**Survey Population:**

COE College Administration provided communication resources to all COE staff, faculty and graduate students within the college about the survey.

**Response Rate:**

55 out of all COE staff, faculty and graduate students responded to the survey that were invited to participate in the survey.

**Summary of Overall Results**

**Community Culture & Engagement**

The survey shows that there is a continued need to improve communication and engagement within college on sustainability programs throughout the year. The average COE employee and graduate student community did not know about the campaign themes. Throughout the campaign, the College Green Team used the Think Big, Live Green newsletter, the COE Info Update, and Green Ambassadors to communicate the college community. 59% respondents indicated they did not know about the “BIG Paper Cut” theme, 50% did not know about the “Green Your Workplace” theme, 20% did not know about “The Energy Smackdown” energy competition, 47% did not about the “Setback = Payback” theme, 50% did not know about Recyclemania, and 30% did not know about “Unplugged 2014” energy competition. On average, 56% of the respondents indicated that these themes did not help them think about how to use resources within their workplace because they did not know about them.

Key programs of the College Engagement Program in the College of Engineering were the Green Labs and Offices Certification Programs. According to the survey, 45% of respondents did not know about the Green Lab Certification Program. 43% of respondents did not know about the Green Office Certification. “Lack of departmental organization and communication” and “physical constraints” were the main barriers to participating in this program. COE Green Ambassadors were also key to the campaign communication and success by actively conducting the self-assessment for their workgroup with campaign provided outreach materials and strategies.

For future college-wide sustainability initiatives, the college Green Team must be mindful of the community’s demanding job responsibilities to achieve sustained engagement. More effective means of communication to the college community is needed to garner support for these types of initiatives. Throughout the survey, the respondents stated that more awareness was needed consistently throughout college. Visible college administrative support would also support individual and department support in future sustainability initiatives.

**Energy Conservation**

It is clear from the survey that there are some opportunities for improving energy management and conservation. 57% of the respondents indicated to have never swapped out a standard powerstrip for an energy-efficient model. 72% indicated to have never used a CozyToes™ heated foot pad. Based on the respondents, the community does not feel like it has control over the energy management elements in their workspace. Respondents may not have been knowledgeable, incentivized, or given the opportunity to engage in energy conservation actions within their workspace.

**Lab Management**

Lab management appears to have good levels of engagement throughout the college. 77% of respondents who work in a lab setting properly dispose of old or unneeded lab equipment. 40% indicated they properly store and dispose of unneeded equipment. Further education on lab ventilation and fume hood management is needed for lab users in the college; 42% of the respondents indicated that they never hibernated a chemical fume hood, and 80% indicated they have never set ultra-low temperature freezers to -70°C instead of -80°C.

**Waste Management**

The survey revealed consistent engagement in basic waste management actions throughout the college. The biggest opportunities for improvement include emphasizing double-sided printing and the use of reusable mugs and plates in the workplace. “Inconvenience” and “lack of knowledge of available resources” were the most stated reasons that prohibit further engagement in waste management.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the survey confirms that the COE community cares about sustainability topics, and that they are interested in COE being a leader in sustainability. More events and education is needed to focus on the specific actions within energy conservation, lab management, and waste management that are both measurable and sustainable. It is recommended that the College Administration first establish sustainability as a job responsibility of a person or group within the College, who could coordinate with the Energy and Sustainability department on college sustainability initiatives. This person or group would be responsible for the communication of programs, initiatives and events for the college that have a meaningful impact on the college culture. Creating ownership from within the college is the only way to have a lasting program with engagement across the different college departments.