

Notes: Increasing Resilience of Campus Facilities and Grounds

How are we institutionalizing resilience into our planning, developing the language for contracts and better conversations with our administration?

- Reduction of labor costs, co-benefits, increases flexibility, investment for the future that help us think about a 2040 meteorological system
- Discussion from the group:
 - Adaptive responses to our needs, nagging issue: one person that works outside, regardless of the size of our campus, how to maintain our resources
 - Putting together a system-wide sustainability committee to be working with MN state schools to share practices and network
 - Solution: planning for the future, don't let grounds become an afterthought
 - Turf conversion projects: high input to low input. Currently install an urban meadow on UMN campus (not grass, all flowers), not native plants, but beautiful and has low inputs
 - Curb appeal vs. resilience, using outside contractors to take care of sustainability meadows and prairies until can be managed internally.
 - Challenges: labor, costs, lack of shared resources
 - What can be done to train facilities and grounds employees?
 - BMPs need their own focus, Sustainable Land Managers-specialist vs. generalist in their employment
 - BMP management
 - Technology for land management needs to become cost effective like turf practices
 - Knowledge of knowing where to plant plants that will grow well.
- Facility Related discussion:
 - Redundancy of utilities on campus: more reliable, CHP being installed on UMP Campus
 - UPS uninterrupted power supply for boilers and things
 - Buildings using old data to plan for the future, when that will not be true in the next few years. Need better data sets. Bake into contracts
 - Use parallel examples to plan for future development
 - RFPs
 - University of Chicago and 7th Wave's webinar to writing a good RFP to have more resilience built into a plan
 - Chancellor's message: Don't build new before analyzing existing buildings, only add what we absolutely need to
 - Building Management systems- use more as a tool for conservation
 - Bonding bills in the state school system: How do we not rely on the government and HEAPR dollars to make repairs and improvements? GESP program? Performance contracts? Grants?
 - Utilizing simple tasks like painting to maybe fix the wall before you paint and so forth

- New Financial health indicators within Minnesota State, looking into revolving loan funds

Diligence to track the improvements and calculating the savings- important to how we tell our story, need to show what is sexy or rewrite what it is sexy

What words do you use? What language do you use when you talk with your administration?

- Land management: did not have enough labor, so we needed land management practices to save us money and labor costs, then use the co benefits later
- Future planning causes folks to step back- are you just being reactive or proactive?
- Start with the vision and value that you want to carry into the future
- Flexibility (doing more with fewer classrooms, not fixed seating)
- Investment (how to invest in your buildings to make them achieve your values and vision)

Nugget to take away:

- System-wide work
- Turf Grass
- Grounds- not an afterthought
- Language toward resilience
- Fighting battles selectively
- Outside collaborators
- Departments- BMP need a focus
- Better data for future planning
- Language for a future system, baking that into contracts, language to advance projects
 - Flexibility, future, resilience, avoiding reactive planning
- Energy Use Intensity Targets (EUIs)
- The project is the process: **How are we institutionalizing resilience into our planning and developing the language for contracts and better conversations with our administration?**
 - **Reduction of labor costs, co-benefits, increases flexibility, investment for the future that help us think about a 2040 meteorological system**
- Community of Process Development

Notes from the flip charts:

- Working in SWCDs
- Budget challenges- 1 person works outside
- Problems w/invasives
- Problems w/prep to ensure success
- Importance of systemwide work
- We are getting aware from turf grass
- Don't let grounds be an afterthought
- Find common contract and language towards resilience
- Urban Meadow! No grasses, all flowers! – case study? (meadows, prairies)

- Curb appeal vs. resilience
- Fight battles selectively
- Outside collaborators can help us learn how to manage!
- Tree, turf, woody shrubs – BMPs need own focus!
- Tensions – generalists vs. specialists
- Turf management is well developed – need SAME movement in NEW approaches!
- Don't plants where they won't grow
- Urban meadow is not native – lower maintenance, lower inputs, looks good
- Redundancy? Is this a topic
- U of MN TC CHP
- Will island East Bank/UPSs
- Onsite renewables to sections of campus
- Need to use better datasets – HDD & same water patterns - Bake into contracts
- What does 2040 meteorological system look like?
- 7th wave – are we achieving EUI (energy use intensity) targets?
- What with zero growth?
- How do we not rely on govt/HEAPR \$ to make repairs and improve?
- GESP program?
- Performance contracts?
- Grants?
- Private partners?
- New financial health indicators in MnSCU?
- Loan funds/green fees
- Turf work - Labor shortage arguments work
- Not pollinators
- Water management
- TCOE vs. Least cost cradle to grave costs
- Use word FUTURE to avoid REACTIVE Planning
- Other ideas!
- Flexibility
- Investment
- Community of process development
- Building language into contracts