

I2SL Landfill Diversion Working Group

December 7, 2017

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- 1) Follow-up from I2SL Conference Panel (30 min)
 - a) Feedback - how did it go
 - i) This conversation is new to many people from corporate sector, including the panelists
 - ii) Not long enough to dive deeper, but the desire is there
 - iii) Good to take time to get everyone on the same page; good start to lay groundwork
 - iv) Not too much product pitching
 - v) Gave a good platform, but next time should ask them harder questions
 - b) Opportunities: make a follow-up plan to keep companies engaged in the conversation
 - i) Went well for suppliers & manufacturers, so we think they would be willing to engage again
 - ii) Companies said that they need to hear from the end user, and sustainability never comes up from end user
 - (1) Poll researchers? ACT label has similar challenge. What does supplier survey look like?
 - (2) Look to other purchasing sectors with successful institutional sustainability
 - iii) Opportunity to elevate the social justice conversation in the I2SL community. ACT label doesn't include social justice, but could in the future.
 - iv) More collaboration with SPLC, RPN, and other purchasing organizations
 - v) ACT label requested by purchasers. Products adopt ACT label. ACT label evolve to include other criteria like total environmental impact factors. Future state of ACT 1, ACT 2, ACT 3 when enough products and judgment are present.
2. Focus areas for the Working group (30 min)
 - a) Review focus areas and roles: Purchaser side (solid waste metrics, existing diversion/recycling options)/ Supplier side (benchmark product options, existing supplier strengths)
 - i) Purchaser: Survey of scientists to find out what is important
 - ii) Supplier: How to engage with suppliers between now and next year's I2SL summit?
 - iii) Should we focus on specific items, like foam coolers and gel packs?
 - iv) How can we support the ACT label?
 - (1) Tell manufacturers that it is important to us. 15 say they want to adopt label.
 - (2) Link ACT label into Procurement, get them to recognize it and request it as a preferred ecolabel.
 - (3) Incorporate into e-procurement website
 - (4) act.mygreenlab.com
 - b) Report on progress to date
 - i) Purchaser - Waste Diversion Survey - led by Star with a one sheet summary - will post to webpage
 - ii) Supplier - Kelly and Kathy interviewed all of the panelists by phone beforehand.
 - iii) Both: Kelly's intern composed a memo with purchaser/supplier research/benchmarking
 - c) Determine next steps - ACTION ITEMS
 - i) Purchaser: How do we bring in the people who identified on the survey that they want to be involved?

- ii) Purchaser: develop a survey for researchers to find out how sustainability ranks in importance to them.
- iii) Supplier: Follow up with representatives from companies on how they think the conference session went. Report back on next call.
- iv) Allison to give webinar to the group on the ACT label.
- v) Ask procurement at your institution to add ACT label to list of acceptable labels.
- vi) Kathy to continue to work on gel/ice pack/foam cooler landfill diversion.
- vii) Ask Phil about where conference presentations are available on the website.
- viii) Star to post survey data onto Box
- ix) Kelly to post live benchmarking memo onto Box. Group to keep it live by adding information when possible.

Key takeaways:

1. Since lab suppliers have a large portfolio of interest areas, our group should work to support ACT label, which also covers a diverse array of product lines and sustainability aspects.
2. Bridging the gap: Some suppliers want to hear from the scientists that product sustainability is important, but we know scientists don't have time/capacity to verbalize this, even though it is a priority. Institutions with Green Labs programs are therefore the voice of the scientists on this, in addition to advancing institutional goals for sustainability in purchasing and landfill diversion. A survey of scientists, with appropriately worded questions, will give Institutional Green Labs groups and our group evidence of what scientists want so we can bridge this gap.