
Digging Deeper into Sustainability: Finding Measures that Matter

*Co-sponsored by the Campus Consortium on Environmental Excellence (C2E2)
and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I*

13 May 2013

Yale West Campus Conference Center, 800 West Campus Dr., Orange, CT

Colleges and universities are leaders in sustainability, but we still struggle with measuring progress, and with certain operational health and safety issues. This workshop will explore how to find and use quantifiable information on sustainability policies and strategies, with a particular focus on issues related to laboratories because they consume considerable amounts of energy. Overcoming operational and institutional differences between sustainability and environmental health and safety will also be discussed. A complete workshop description is below.

9:00 Introductions: Suzanne Howard, EHS Director, Wellesley College, and Joshua Secunda, Innovations and Sustainability Unit, Office of Assistance and Pollution Prevention, USEPA-New England

9:15 Keynote speaker: Cindy Klein-Banai, Associate Chancellor for Sustainability, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago

9:45 “Yale Facilities: Accelerating Progress in Energy and Green House Gas Reduction,” Anthony Kosier, Director of Utilities and Engineering, and Julie Paquette, Director of Energy Manager, Yale Facilities

10:15 “MIT’s experience: Energy Efficiency in Lab Design“, Steven Lanou, Deputy Director, Sustainability Program, MIT EHS Headquarters Office, and Pam Greenley, Associate Director, MIT EHS Office

10:45 Break

11:00 Speaker: Mark Orłowski, Executive Director, Sustainable Endowments Institute

11:30 “EHS versus Sustainability—Bridges and Barriers,” Ludmilla Pavlova Senior, Facilities Planner, Campus Planning, Ezra Small, Campus Sustainability Manager, and Terri Wolejko, Assistant Director, Environmental and Hazardous Materials Management Services, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Open Space Breakout session on five topics

Metrics (Keri Enright-Kato, Yale Sustainability Project Manager)

Practices in laboratories (Rob Klein, Yale EHS Deputy Director)

Standardization of greenhouse gas reporting [facilitator/scribe]

Integration of EHS and Sustainability [facilitator/scribe]

2:45 Report Out & Summary

3:30 Workshop Concludes

Woodard & Curran will be present to take notes. Following the Workshop, they will prepare a summary report for C2E2 and EPA, which will be publically available.

Workshop Description
*C2E2-EPA workshop on
Integrating Sustainability into College/University Operations*

Colleges and universities are at the forefront of efforts to preserve the earth's resources for future generations. There is widespread support among college and university faculty, students and staff for the environment. However, there are real challenges in how to make progress in incorporating conservation of resources and sustainability into the operations of educational institutions as they seek to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of their faculty, students and staff. Beyond a broad recognition of support for the principle of sustainability, most colleges and universities have had difficulty advancing from making statements of support for sustainability and conservation to actually making them a routine consideration in the college/university business model, operations and projects. This workshop will examine two issues that seem to contribute significantly to those challenges and practical solutions some schools have successfully implemented.

One of the major reasons for the difficulty in integrating sustainability/conservation into campus planning and operations involves a lack of quantifiable information on the impact of sustainability policies and strategies. There has not been much discussion of standards of measurement that provide practical and useful ways to monitor sustainability progress. Establishing metrics is critical to successfully incorporate sustainability considerations into key performance indicators and projects. As part of a discussion of sustainability metrics, it is key to determine which metrics/measurements are available or could be available, which ones should be used, which ones are the most meaningful to use, and how to improve the quality of the data that is available. During this workshop, university EHS professionals and others will push beyond generalities to discuss specific ways they have determined which metrics and measurements to assess, the obstacles they have confronted in seeking to collect that information, practical ways that their institutions have been able to use that information, and what further advances would be useful.

Another important obstacle to advancing campus sustainability efforts is the organizational separation and cultural difference between EHS and Sustainability programs on most campuses, which has been in place for various historical reasons and which hampers planning and coordination in various ways. Overcoming those operational and institutional differences and improving the integration of those programs will help advance sustainability and conservation. During this workshop, EHS and sustainability professionals will discuss practical ways their campuses have advanced the integration of EHS and sustainability programs, the successes and challenges those changes have brought, and further advances that are being considered.

The workshop is designed for environmental, health and safety professionals and sustainability professionals; however, facility staff, energy managers, campus and capital project planners may find value in this workshop as well.

The workshop will occur on May 13, 2013 at Yale University. It will include panel discussions and presentations, then some breakout sessions for more in-depth small group discussion, and then a reporting out of the small group discussions during a closing session.

A report describing the workshop discussions will be delivered to EPA New England by July 31, 2013.

How Open Space works:

The Fundamental "Rules" of an OpenSpace exercise are:

- Every topic/group has a facilitator/scribe and a flip chart.
- Whoever shows up is the right group.
- Tell the scribe your idea or point.
- Or write it on a post-it and put the it on the flip chart or wall.
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
- Use the "Law of Two Feet." If you feel that you are not contributing or benefiting from a presentation, please feel free to move on to something else.
- When it's over, it's over.

People can choose different roles for participation in Open Space meetings:

Host: the person who feels a burning passion for the subject and is willing to take responsibility to call the conversation, invite others in and make sure something gets harvested.

Participant: Anyone who is drawn to a conversation wants to stay the whole time and participate fully.

Bumble bee: The ones who move from conversation to conversation cross-pollinating the learning.

Butterfly: A butterfly may not want to be in any conversation, instead they prefer to sit on the lawn and look beautiful. A new, unexpected conversation may happen when two butterflies meet.

Other notes:

Woodard and Curran will take registration

The charge will be \$35 per person