



Buffalo Environmental Management Commission

Monthly Energy/Efficiency and Sustainability TIP SHEET October 2011

As part of its City Charter-defined mission to advise the Mayor and Common Council on environmental issues affecting the City, the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission submits a monthly "tip sheet" on a timely topic for information, review and consideration. This month's tip sheet showcases University of Buffalo's Campus Recycling Improvements.

Recycling and waste minimization are two areas that have great potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the University of Buffalo, and will help fulfill their commitment to become a climate neutral campus by 2030. By decreasing the amount of materials consumed on campus UB can reduce emissions associated with transportation and methane emissions from landfills.

Beginning in this past summer UB has improved their recycling program on campus by making it possible to include all acceptable recyclables in one container. The program also expanded the list of items that can be recycled. The "All in One" program makes it easier for personnel to recycle materials without having to sort items into different bins.

The improved program includes public areas, kitchenettes and campus offices and encourages every member of the campus community to directly participate in recycling and waste minimization on a daily basis.

The results of the improved program can be significant since:

- Greenhouse gas methane is twenty-three times more damaging than carbon dioxide;
- Recycling also results in monetary savings for the university. Increasing the recycling rate by 10% would result in an annual savings in excess of \$10,000;
- "All in One" recycling reduces pick-up frequency by the waste hauler and emissions associated with transportation;
- "All in One" recycling simplifies the process for participants, potentially recycling more material and reducing disposal costs for non-recycled materials.

Additional information regarding recycling is available at www.buffalo.edu/recycling or by contacting Erin Mascoti, Environmental Educator in the UB Green office at (716) 829-5743.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the tip sheet please contact Joe Gardella (Interim Chair, BEMC) at gardella@buffalo.edu or Dennis Sutton (BEMC support staff) at dsutton@city-buffalo.com.

BEMC members are willing to promote implementation of these programs in the City of Buffalo. BEMC meets the third Wednesday of every month, 8:00 AM, 901 City Hall. The BEMC web site address is:

http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home/CityServices/Environmental_Management_Commission