Bill Status: ***Passed***

Student Government
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government
Legislative Council

Date: 04/17/2014 80 LCR 11 Recycling Facility Construction

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A Resolution in Support of Critical Inclusions to the Construction of the New IPF

Resolution History

In December of 2013, the CU Board of Regents approved a $142 million plan for athletics facilities upgrades, including the expansion of the northeast corner of Folsom Field. The Folsom Field expansion will displace the building that houses Grounds and the recycling facility better known as the Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF). The IPF is a middle processing step between the CU boulder campus and markets for recyclable materials. Student staff at the IPF consolidate, sort, weigh, and ship nearly all of campus' recyclable waste as well as waste from major campus events, up to 10,000 pounds a day.[1] The zero waste/recycling program is a centerpiece of CU campus sustainability, contributing positively to CU's image, student recruitment, student engagement, zero waste goals, solid waste processing, corporate partnerships, and overall sustainability.

Exclusion and lack of communication have been central features of the IPF relocation, and despite repeated assurances to the contrary, the entire planning and design process has virtually excluded meaningful student, CUSG, and Recycling Program input in decision making altogether. The exclusion reached a high point last week at the 10 April Design Review Board (DRB) meeting where Planning, Design, and Construction (PD&C) staff deliberately censored design considerations that had

[1] http://www.colorado.edu/ecenter/recycling/campus-recycling-center-ipf

urgently and repeatedly requested by CUSG and other campus departments. These ignored requests include building the new IPF to allow for future expansions to incorporate future zero waste programs in support of a 90% waste diversion from landfill goal, as well as a Zero Waste Lab.

A Zero Waste Lab at the IPF was included in the original IPF relocation program plan (but was not mentioned at the DRB meeting), and has received much traction and positive support from student government leadership, Facilities Management leadership, the CUSG Environmental Board, the Zero Waste Board of Directors, and other campus entities. A Zero Waste Lab has long been a need of the campus zero waste program, and has been proposed in several documents from campus departments and consultants.

The Zero Waste Lab in conjunction with the IPF is a groundbreaking concept that would once again distinguish CU as a leader in global campus sustainability, combining student engagement, operational leadership, and academic research. The Lab would leverage new student ideas by investing resources and efforts into studying new sustainable practices for the campus to adopt, allowing students to truly employ the "campus as a living laboratory" model. Corporate partners have already expressed interest in the Zero Waste Lab, providing long-term financial support as well as opportunities to gain hands-on experience and connect with professionals and future employers. A Zero Waste Lab is not a want but a necessity and should be highly prioritized in the adequately-sized future IPF.

Resolution Summary

This resolution recognizes the brief window of opportunity that is open to CUSG to include critical provisions in the program plan for the new Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF, or recycling center). These provisions are necessary to avoid negative consequences to finances and waste diversion rate, to include a Zero Waste Lab, as well as to avoid serious constraints on expansion and future development of CU's zero waste program. In the absence of immediate and meaningful student action, the construction timeline and process is irreversible and constraints placed on the program will be exceedingly difficult and costly to overcome.

This resolution supports CUSG insistence that the construction for the new Intermediate Processing Facility (hereafter IPF or recycling center) must include:

1. Adequate square footage of usable floor space to meet the "in-kind replacement" that was promised by Athletics;[2]
2. The structural and site capability for future expansion such that the recycling

[2] 9 November 2000 BCPC Minutes

partnership can expand the building when deemed feasible and appropriate;
3. Design for LEED Gold certification at a minimum;
4. Inclusion of CUSG and Recycling Center representatives in all decision making discussions.

CUSG also strongly advocates for the inclusion of a Zero Waste Lab in the program plan. If possible, CUSG believes that the Zero Waste Lab should be a part of the original construction of the new IPF; however, if this is not possible we recommend that the Zero Waste Lab be added as an expansion at the earliest possible time.

Whereas, the Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF) is critically important to achieving CU Boulder goals of 90% diversion of waste from the landfill; and

Whereas, the IPF adds value to campus through the typical generation of net revenue, employment of students, furthering campus rates of diversion from landfill, and the promotion of environmental stewardship by increasing the quality of the recycling streams thereby reducing virgin resource consumption; and

Whereas, over the 38 years of student-founded, student-funded, and student-led zero waste programming, CU students have invested millions of dollars as well as millions of hours of labor to this cause; and

Whereas, CUSG and Recycling Program representatives have unacceptably been excluded from many important steps in the development of the program plan for the new IPF/Grounds building; and

Whereas, repeated assurances by project managers and university leadership that students, CUSG and Recycling Program representatives would be included in all IPF discussion and planning have not been honored; and

Whereas, as recorded in the minutes of the 9 November 2000 meeting of the BCPC, Athletics committed to:

1. An in-kind replacement of the Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF) with no impact to CU recycling.
2. Ensuring that the IPF building site will have ample capacity for anticipated recycling volumes for the foreseeable future.
3. The provision of facilities and phasing to ensure no interruption in services provided by CU Recycling during the Folsom Field expansion.
4. A minimization of the impact to materials transport, student labor, and educational access.

Whereas, the Guiding Principles of the Athletic Department include "Will comply with all promises and commitments"[3]; and

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[3]http://fm.colorado.edu/planning/bcpc/minutes/documents/ColoradoFootballOpsProgramPlan11_18_13Fi

Whereas, the new IPF is not an in-kind replacement—the planned allocated space for the new IPF constitutes *even less* space than the current IPF; and

Whereas, the current plan as presented to the Design Review Board by Planning, Design & Construction staff does *not* include the structural capability for future expansions upward and outward; and

Whereas, discussion of expansion has been deliberately censored from DRB by PD&C staff despite CUSG emails, letters, and input at meetings; and

Whereas, to move from the current campus diversion rate of 44% to the goal of 90%, expanded IPF space is absolutely necessary; and

Whereas, the inclusion of a widely-supported Zero Waste Lab also requires additional space at the IPF; and

Whereas, a Zero Waste Lab has received widespread support from student leaders and others in the campus zero waste community, and presents the next progressive step in collegiate sustainability leadership; and

Whereas, a series of set meetings and approval dates means that any delay in communicating student and zero waste program needs will leave CU Boulder student concerns irreversibly out of the process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government, THAT:

Section 1: CUSG asks that Athletics, the Design Review Board, and Planning Design & Construction staff honor the commitment made to an in-kind replacement that meets current and future needs by providing the new IPF usable floor space to match that of the current IPF.

Section 2: CUSG urges that PD&C staff as well as the Design Review Board acknowledge the multiple requests that have been made for a Zero Waste Lab, and include the Zero Waste Lab into the planning and design process, and if possible, in the original construction.

1. This inclusion should not trump any operational needs, space allocations, or design considerations for the IPF or Grounds.

Section 3: In the event that private, corporate, or student government funds are provided to facilitate the inclusion of a Zero Waste Lab and IPF expansion during the

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timeline of the Athletics project, CUSG urges Athletics and PD&C to consider options to include these funds toward the construction of the new facility within the fixed limit of construction.

Section 4: CUSG insists that the new IPF facility and site be planned and built to accommodate future expansions, recognizing the necessity of expansions to accommodate 90% diversion of waste from landfill.

Section 5: CUSG asks that the facility be built to be LEED Gold Plus certified, which is a standard campus procedure for all new construction, and a necessity for a building so central to campus sustainability.

1. This level of LEED certification can be attained by elements supported by the DRB and include: a green wall, green roof, day lighting, rooftop PV panel, an onsite closed-vessel composter that creates biofuel which could be used in the adjacent new CU power plant, etc.

Section 6: CUSG requires inclusion in the decision making process, a right to which students are entitled. This ought to be in the form of greater collaboration, transparency, and communication with CUSG and the CU Recycling Program by the project planners, the Design Review Board (DRB), and Planning, Design and Construction (PD&C) throughout *every stage and meeting* in the decision making process.

Section 7: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the Legislative Council and upon obtaining the signatures of the Legislative Council President and the signatures of two Executives or the lapse of 6 days without action by the Executives.

Vote Count

04/17/2014	**Passed on 1st reading**	**Acclamation**
04/24/2014	**Passed on 2nd reading**	**Acclamation**

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