

**U-MED Green District Report to Executives
from
U-MED Management Team
April 20, 2009**

This report responds to the guidance provided by U-MED Executives during their late November 2008 meeting requesting **Workgroup Goals and **Participant Lists**. We've also added **Management Team Goals**.**

Management Team Goals

The Management Team's Goals have a more overarching theme than each of the Workgroups.

1) Identify Criteria to Evaluate Success of U-Med Green District:

- It is important to evaluate if the efforts are worth the outcome.
- Initial discussions identified – how each organization has changed/modified its behavior and activities and where possible quantify outcomes from these changes, all U-Med institutions should be Green Star certified.
- Should document outcomes and level of success to report on its first year's effort.

2) Recognize U-Med Green District Coordination Takes Resources: identify how to meet coordination needs and provide recommendations to Executives by May-June 2009 timeframe.

3) Identify/Prioritize Workgroup Goals: Workgroup goals and efforts also take resources. By identifying "easy wins" and short and long-term goals, resource requirements can be minimized while building U-Med capacity, enthusiasm and the desired outcomes.

4) Identify Next Steps and Challenges:

- Participants for each workgroup not yet identified.

Requested Action to U-Med Executives: Executives are encouraged to review lists for Workgroups and Management Teams and select/appoint for those areas not yet filled.

- Develop or identify tracking methodologies to monitor and quantify outcomes of U-Med efforts, e.g. pounds recycled and tipping fees avoided. Identify what data is needed and how to cost-efficiently get; utilize contractors to degree possible.
- UAA has provided resources for the facilitation and coordination of the U-Med Green District's efforts, and has agreed to continue this through September 2009. This arrangement provides U-Med institutions time to assess the value and need of a coordinator and to identify other/new resources.

- ♣ U-Med Management Team requested UAA Sustainability Director and Green Star to work with Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation to request assistance from a particular grant to help with costs.

Workgroup Goals

U-MED Executives requested that the four workgroups develop goals for the next year.

Alternative Energy and Facility Goals

Although not directly stated, based on the goals, this group has determined that it is in its interest to consider facility issues that include but go beyond energy.

- 1) **Co-Generation Power Plant:** Clarify participation by various U-MED institutions in terms of benefits and roles each can play. On-going discussions. (Also need MOA: ML&P)
- 2) **New Technologies:** Identify new technologies such as SMART GRID and explore how to use them effectively.
- 3) **Groundwater Cooling Issues:** Clarify how the State's Dept of Natural Resources is addressing the issue of water mining, where some in the U-Med District have been using ground water for cooling.
- 4) **LEED Standards:** Create means to achieve and learn about and/or influence building permit fees to off-set LEED certification costs. (Also need MOA: Permitting Department)
- 5) **Carbon Emission Baseline and Reduction Strategies:** UAA has developed a baseline analysis and reduction plan, which others can examine and determine if in their interest to also conduct.
- 6) **U-Med Parking:** Identify how U-Med organizations can meet parking demands without building more parking lots/garages; this may include identifying if and how to change building codes for parking-to-building occupancy ratios. (Also need MOA Planning, Permitting and Assembly) (NOTE – Work with Active Transportation Workgroup)
- 7) **U-Med Transportation:** Identify a U-Med Loop and options to provide a shuttle services in order to meet needs. (Also need People Mover) (NOTE – Work with Active Transportation Workgroup)

Green Purchasing Goals

- 1) **Identify Strategies and Challenges to Leverage Purchasing Power:**
 - Identify product categories with a good track record to leverage purchasing power
 - Select 3 products (categories) to then focus energy/attention on to leverage purchasing power and work with primary/other vendors
 - Conduct sufficient information/data collection about green products, e.g. to Green Star standards to justify sole source if needed
 - Determine if Green Star can assist as “manager of purchasing cooperative” to leverage purchasing power and to utilize distributors to negotiate better price with vendors/manufacture
 - Clarify government purchasing regulations/challenges to leveraging joint institutional purchasing power
- 2) **Identify and determine how to utilize under-utilized businesses**
 - Determine if advantageous to use
- 3) **Draft green purchasing policy(s)** (may need separate policies for each institution)

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs) Goals

1) **Recycling**

- Strive/work with service providers to collectively bring on commercial curb side recycling.
 - Address economic feasibility by identifying reduced tipping fees, jointly establish roll off dumpsters/joint collection areas. Possibly include plastic and tin in recycling efforts.
- Collect information about recycling levels and products from each U-Med institution
 - Accumulate current information and data from each U-MED institution to create master list:
 - ♣ Practices and procedures
 - ♣ Poundage and product types of current recycling
 - ♣ Document and share top recycling efforts and volumes
 - ♣ Identify, rank and prioritize recycling efforts for U-Med District as a whole.

2) **Reduce**

- Plastic bottle usage and encourage reusable water bottle usage
 - Work with Vending Machine vendors to identify alternative packaging
 - Develop awareness campaigns
- Identify composting potential and challenges (**HIGH PRIORITY**)

Active Transportation (formerly alternative transportation)

1) **Bicycling**

- Participate in Bike to Work Day
 - Identified April 17 to reconvene and identify strategies to motivate U-Med Community members
 - Revise to Active Transportation Week
 - Picnic/BBQ in APU/USGS area
- Identify location/work space for Off-The-Chain Cooperative
- Identify bike infrastructure: racks to trails to maps to signage
- Identify and participate in designations, e.g. League of American Bicyclists

2) **People Mover/HOV**

- Support (advocate) for capital upgrades given budget woes
- Support (advocate) for better service
- Work for long-term changes in DOT/PF funding of active (alternative) transportation options
 - Invite DOT/PF Commissioner to Workgroup
 - Draft letter for U-Med Executives to consider signing/sending to DOT Commissioner and other state and federal officials regarding funding for alternative transportation infrastructure.
- Create quarterly car pool/alternative transportation day (maybe week)
- Develop organizational challenges/competitions

3) **Parking spaces (NOTE – Work with Energy/Facilities Workgroup)**

- Identify how to address issue of “build it and they will come”
 - Stop adding parking spaces
 - Create viable options for employees and customers to use other modes (U-Med Shuttle)

4) **Define Success**

- Identify goals and baseline: reduce emissions, reduce rider mileage, etc.

5) **Tax/Employer Credits**

- Identify, share and recommend to institutions to implement tax/employer credits programs for using alternative transportation

6) **Telecommuting Policy**

- Identify elements, draft and provide to executives