



Sponsored by C2E2 and Boston College

Measuring and Reporting on Environmental Performance

May 3, 2006
Boston College

The Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence (C2E2) and Boston College are sponsoring a workshop to bring together environmental professionals and institutional research professionals to initiate a meaningful dialogue on the development of appropriate methods for measuring and reporting on environmental performance. In order to have a manageable focus for our initial efforts, the workshop will explore the measurement and reporting issues related to the environmental performance of research laboratories.

What Are the Purposes of this Workshop?

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Advance attention to sustainability issues at universities by focusing on a specific high-impact aspect of university performance—research laboratories.
- Evaluate current challenges in monitoring and reporting on environmental performance in research laboratories and develop more consistent, accurate and meaningful metrics for measuring, analyzing, and reporting such performance.
- Bring the expertise of a variety of campus professionals to this important issue—the environmental intelligence of Environmental Health and Safety and Sustainability personnel, the facilities knowledge of Facilities Management personnel, the data analysis and reporting skills of institutional researchers.
- Promote an ongoing collaboration among these parties with respect to campus sustainability and environmental performance monitoring and reporting.

Why Start with a Focus on Research Activities?

There are a number of “drivers” or reasons for focusing on research labs as a concrete sustainability issue:

- Labs are major users of resources and producers of waste. Both costs and risks for universities can be reduced with better monitoring of laboratory performance.
- Perception by regulatory agencies that laboratories often fail to comply with many environmental, health and safety regulations
- Increased interest by funding bodies (e.g., NIH) in reducing the risks and improving the efficiencies of laboratories
- Efforts by EPA, called Labs21, to improve environmental performance in laboratories
- Increased interest – and fear – by the community associated with biological laboratories on campus
- The inability of universities to address the concerns noted above with evidence that they are monitoring and improving laboratory performance.

Who is Attending?

A select group of research institutions were invited to participate in this workshop. Each institution was asked to bring up to three individuals -- (1) a campus environmental professional who is familiar with laboratory performance data (e.g., hazardous waste generation, energy and water use), (2) a sustainability director/coordinator or a facilities person who is familiar with laboratory metering and measurement systems, and (3) an institutional researcher. The organizations listed below have committed to participate by sending both an IR and an environmental representative. Names of attendees will be distributed at the workshop.

Boston College
Boston University
Dartmouth College
Harvard University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Northeastern University
Tufts University
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Vermont

What is the Agenda?

The agenda is included with this package as a separate document.

What is the Desired Outcome?

Desired outcomes include the following, organized from most likely to aspirational (least likely to be achieved by the end of the workshop)

- Participants understand the methods used by environmental and institutional research professionals on campus for monitoring and measuring institutional activities and providing the data, reports and intelligence to internal and external constituents
- Participants identify one, or several, approaches to measuring environmental performance associated with research activities
- Participants commit to the creation of a workgroup to (a) further explore ideas for measuring , and perhaps benchmarking, research environmental performance identified during the workshop, or (b) pilot one, or several, approaches to measuring environmental performance
- Consensus is reached on environmental performance metrics for laboratories

What Do I Need to Do to Prepare for the Workshop?

We will ask everyone to be familiar with the agenda, review an article on “Measuring and Reporting Institutional Sustainability” by Larry Litten, Director of Institutional Research at Dartmouth College and a short piece with respect to measuring environmental impacts in laboratories and the experience of Boston College, University of Vermont and UMass Boston in measuring hazardous wastes generated in laboratories.

Institutional research professionals should bring available data and facts about their institution, which may be relevant to developing metrics with respect to measuring laboratory environmental performance (e.g. any environmental data that are reported in factbooks, etc., total research expenditures, number of FTE faculty, etc.) We are not requesting any additional data collection or analysis.

Environmental/sustainability professionals should bring available data and facts about their institution’s environmental impacts including specific data associated with laboratory activities. Such data may include hazardous waste generation, solid waste, energy usage or water usage. We are not requesting any additional data collection or analysis.

Where is the Workshop?

The May 3rd workshop will be held in the Walsh Function Room at Boston College. The workshop will run from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Coffee, tea and juice will be available at 8:00 am. Lunch will be served.

For further information, contact:

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Kelli Armstrong, Boston College, Institutional Research, kelli.armstrong@bc.edu, 617-552-0585
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Directions to Boston College are available on line:

<http://www.bc.edu/about/maps/>

Parking is available in the Beacon Street Garage. Stop at the Guard House to pick up a permit. Parking is on the 3rd or 4th floor. To exit the garage, take the stairs to the basement and walk the length of the garage to a parking lot. Edmonds Hall is a dark brown 8-story building ahead and on your right. Walsh is the building beyond. Follow the walkway between Edmonds and the tennis courts. The entrance to Walsh faces the area on the map that is marked “Modulars.” The meeting will be held in Walsh Hall, Room 131. As you go in the double doors, 131 is on your right.