



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Summary for August 2012–August 2013

CBA Green Team

Educating and involving students and faculty about sustainability and using Mammel Hall efficiently

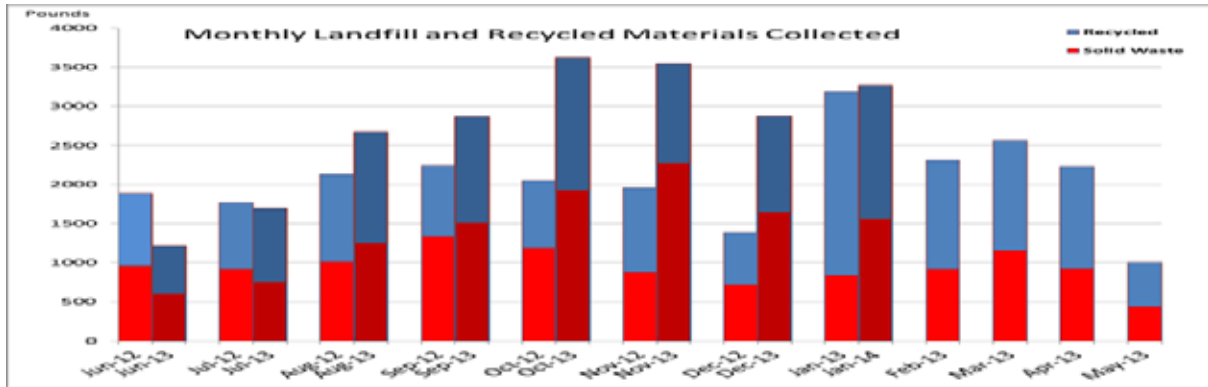
The University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Business Administration (CBA) Green Team was formed in August 2011. The Green Team meets monthly and every department of CBA is represented. In the past academic year, the team accomplished the following:

- **CBA Waste and Recycling** amounts are measured daily to track waste reduction efforts. CBA is a member of WasteWise.
- **CBA Sustainability Implementation Projects** included:
 - Distribution of 182 reusable water bottles during the fall 2013 welcome week.
 - Installation of hydration stations, which provide filtered water suitable for refilling water bottles.
 - Placement of 19 pictorial information labels on public recycling bins.
 - Conduction of a water taste test with 182 students – finding that hydration station (filtered) water is preferred over bottled water and tap water.
 - Establishment of Environmentally Preferable Purchasing contract language for caterers, encouraging the use of durable dishes and recycling.
 - Monthly communication campaigns to promote various sustainability efforts.
- **Energy Dashboard** shows real-time and historic energy usage and historic waste and recycling quantities. It is displayed in MH atrium and on the dashboard website.
- **Green Basis** student group continues to meet and interface with the Green Team.
- **Thin Clients**—400 have been installed in Mammel Hall, replacing existing CPUs. All labs, classrooms, signage and breakout rooms are equipped with thin clients. Approximately \$12,000 in electrical savings per year are achieved over the use of standard computers.
This equates to 139 metric tons of CO₂e, and the equivalent of removing 29 cars off the road per year. Since Mammel Hall's opening four years ago, a total cost saving of \$200,000 has been accrued by not needing to replace computers. Plans are being made to add 65 more thin clients.



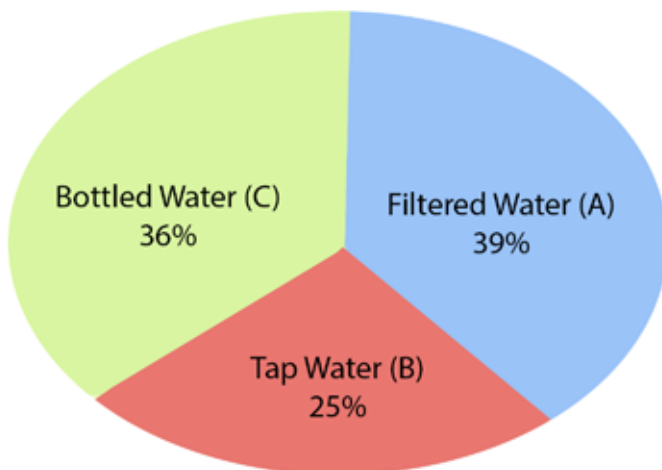
MH Waste and Recycling

Our overall efforts to promote recycling among students, faculty and staff involved the measuring of general waste and recycling, as well as recycling from the electronics and secure shredder paper bins throughout Mammel Hall. As members of the EPA's Waste Wise program, the re-trac online database was also used to track solid waste and recycling amounts. Below is graphical representation of the waste (in red) and recycling (in blue) efforts:



Our waste and recycling efforts also included waste sorts in order to better understand the amount of recyclable materials improperly tossed into the trash and the amount of trash improperly tossed into the recycling. Findings from the sort were used to craft better messages to students, staff and faculty on properly disposing of waste and recycling. The CBA Green team and Green BAISIS have conducted waste sorts of the trash and recycling at Mammel Hall in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, there was 4% contamination of trash in the recycling bins. In 2013, the contamination was 11%. A lot of the contamination was due to liquids remaining in plastic soda bottles. The contamination of materials that could have been recycled but were thrown away went from 24% in 2012 to 12% in 2013. We need to continue to encourage people to use refillable beverage containers in order to reduce actual waste and liquids in the waste and recycling stream. It would be nice to have organic waste containers alongside the recycling and trash bins if we could compost the organics.

Taste Preference by Water Source



Water Taste Tests

The Green Team conducted a water taste test during CBA Welcome Week 2013. Volunteers were asked to taste tap water, bottled water, and filtered water (from the hydration station) and choose their favorite. The aim of this test was to determine if filtered water is just as good or preferable to bottled water. There were 182 participants. Tap or hydration station water was preferred to bottled water by 64% of participants. Participants were also provided energy efficiency information on using tap water or filtered water over bottled water. The graph presents the results from the water taste test; filtered water from the hydration stations (blue slice) was preferred to bottle or tap water.



Water Bottle Filtration Stations

Dyson hydration stations were successfully installed next to all the water fountains in Mammel Hall. This initiative was made to encourage the use of re-usable water bottles. Students that participated in the taste test were given CBA branded water bottles to encourage the use of the filtered water hydration stations.

In the fall of 2013, CBA saved 20.9 million BTU or 4.3 metric tons of CO₂e by using the hydration stations



Labels for Recycling Bins

The Green Team and Green Basis combined efforts to create labels for the recycling bins in the public spaces in Mammel Hall. These labels are printed on vinyl cling plastic and statically adhered to the recycle bins. This same information was printed and put onto pizza boxes and mounted on a wooden pole so the information would be at eye level. These signs with clear instructions on what can and cannot be put in the bins were placed inside the recycling bins during the first week of the fall 2013 semester.

CBA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Contracts for events and catering

The EPP contract was created to outline the sustainable practices expected of event and catering activities in Mammel Hall. This language explains CBA's commitment to sustainability, discourages paper use, encourages sustainability education of meeting participants, promotes more sustainable practices regarding "giveaways" and promotional materials, encourages people bringing their own beverage container and the reuse of materials, encourages the use of local foods and durable eating/service utensils, encourages carpooling, and provides additional suggestions.

CBA Energy Dashboard

An energy dashboard is operational and displayed in the lobby. It provides measurement of energy use and waste and recycling generation. The aim of the dashboard is to track and display real-time energy use in the building. The dashboard also shows the equivalent amount of CO₂ emissions for the electricity used. It also shows the weather and provides energy saving suggestions.

Selling Faculty on Sustainability Initiatives

Initiatives to attract faculty to the Green Team as well as promote sustainable practices among them were addressed. These included a printing initiative to get faculty and staff to change their default printing to double sided and in black and white.

Student Involvement

Green Business Advancing Strategic Integration of Sustainability (Green BASIS) is the student club formed from the Green Team. This club sponsored and organized over ten events during the past year. One event is to bring a truck to campus to collect electronics for recycling. This has been done during the week of Earth Day and will likely be an annual occurrence. They were also actively involved in the August 2013 welcome week with a table and information for interested students.

Monthly Communication Campaigns

The Green Team started posting monthly themed messaging to promote and encourage sustainability among students, staff and faculty in December 2013. Fliers on sustainability tips are posted in the bathroom stalls every month.

