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Wolf & Esposito

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Deliverables Write-Up

The end result of my labor is a webpage that fits in the resources section of Sustain Champlain's web content. You can view it here <http://www.champlain.edu/student-life/campus-and-community-programs/sustain-champlain/resources-sustain-champlain/quick-office-reference>. I created it by doing research and gathering information based off the concerns that people raised during my interviews. This will act as an easily accessible source of information for anyone in Perry Hall, or really any office building. It is intended to answer some of the questions I uncovered during my interview process, like “what do we do with this old print cartridge?” and “how do we recycle kcups?”. In time, especially if another capstoner decides to pursue the development of a Champlain-specific green office certification, it could grow to fit the needs of individual office buildings around campus. I want my work and resources to be available to as many people as could benefit from them.

The tangible deliverables that I am excited about are the established KCup recollection boxes. This is a simple and manageable process of buying (professional and aesthetic) prepaid shipping boxes that sit next to the Keurig machines. When they are full, someone must secure and bring them to the mail room. As a separate aside, admissions switched to compostable teabags to reduce their Kcup waste stream; with this project I've learned to be enthusiastic about baby steps! Something that surprised me was how difficult it is to establish a good and responsible idea, simply because people don't know who will pay for it. Luckily, this conversation is being taken up even higher by Cathe O'Rourke, whom I met up with this Tuesday to discuss my admissions-greening ideas. She is going to see if it is worth it for the school to allocate its own KCup recollection budget. This is important because it is our responsibility to take care of the

waste we create. Another obstacle was the difficulty of getting busy people to care about my plan.

By providing information, my website is definitely addressing some of the sustainability crimes that Perry Hall is committing. However, I have learned that people will do what they are going to do, regardless of the information available to them. The greening of Perry Hall, at least in the perfect sense I had imagined, is a bigger project than expected. If I had to restart today, I would focus solely on human behavior from day one. The logistics of the changes I did make are easy in comparison to convincing people of the importance and how to use them. I wish I had known beforehand how to talk with bosses and supervisors (though no where in education is this really a component unless one goes out of the way to confront higher ups) but I suppose this project was a success in preparing me for the working world!

Referencing what I have learned of systems thinking during my time at Champlain, I would say continuation of the project is a huge concern. It is difficult to make sustainable changes to people who do not see the validity of the project and who did not ask for help/change. Cathe and I noted, once the ball starts rolling it hardly ever stops. This should mean the changes I've made keep working for people, but I worry that my coworkers (whom I'd consider to be my stakeholders in this case) will fall back into their old routine once I have graduated. Another stakeholder issue is the image that the admission center puts off. Apparently the homemade boxes I originally put in the lobby were so hideous they sparked higher-ups to take notice and pay attention to my demands (success!).

Truly I don't see this project as concluded, because I'm still going to work with Christina and my admissions bosses to make sure the momentum I've gathered doesn't fall flat when I leave. The Keurig machines within Perry all have accompanying recollection boxes from the lovely people at Grounds To Grow On. As per my conversation with Cathe O'Rourke the Keurig waste dilemma will be brought up in a cabinet meeting (not sure what this means, with the president and trustees?) to address the improper management of kcup waste across campus, as well as to decide whose responsibility it is to pay for the recollection boxes. If I can pull it off, my next step will be convincing my admissions bosses to add environmental responsibility to the student

ambassador duties. This could secure a place on the team for environmental policy majors (woohoo to prospective student engagement) and ensure that a knowledgeable person is around to steward the environment on behalf of Perry Hall.