

Zero Waste iCAP Meeting 9/20 at 1:00PM

Attendees: Thurman Etchison, Aaron Finder, Nishant Garg, Justin Holding, Shreya Mahajan, Nikki Palella, Jenna Schaefer, Joy Scrogum

Campus Sustainability Celebration:

- The “roundtables” portion takes place from 5-6pm on October 17th, everyone on the team should try to be present to engage in conversation
- We are required to showcase a past, present, and future Zero Waste project
 - Include images if we can!
 - We can retrieve engaging content, like information and graphs, from the Zero Waste chapter

Associated Action Items: Shreya, Nishant, and Nikki will meet to finish up the slides before the October Meeting

General Updates on Zero Waste Projects and Objectives:

- Aaron: A procurement guide has been circulating
 - Recycled content paper program with Office Depot was successful last year (any paper bought had 30 percent recycled guaranteed)
- Shreya and her team are working on using 5 green cleaning products to replace all other cleaning products on campus, F&S is going to do a test trial, this would lead to a LEED certification
 - Thurman adds that Housing & Dining services has switched most commercial cleaning products to green products easily
- With America Recycles Day (Nov. 15) approaching, there are collaborations happening with Coca-Cola to create a Zero Waste Event with athletics
 - There is something in the works for the game on the 14th
 - Shreya’s team has created a week long schedule for America Recycles Day
 - Shreya is also interested in increasing disposable mask recycling
- For the ongoing Dining Services Reusable Containers project, Thurman reports that we are not tracking the data very well (how many people use a container a day, the waste that is returned with the containers, etc)

- Since it is a popular program, a potential future recommendation could be to track this data!

Associated Action Items: The team can begin to work on a recommendation for data tracking of 'Dining Services Reusable Containers'; more research on what we can do to increase disposable mask recycling on campus.

Glass Recycling:

- Lack of glass recycling is a problem countywide, there is not a large market for glass which is why campus has not pursued it further
 - Glass doesn't release toxins when it's in the landfill, unlike other wastes, so it may not be worth pursuing
- Nikki adds there could be potential for local glass collection which would serve recreational purposes (art, propagation, candles)
- Possibility of teaming up with Engagement to create small scale collection bins to give away to students, and possibly the Student Sustainable Farm stand?
 - We could find out where reused glass may be useful and redirect it there
- Joy wants us to focus on the waste stream: food waste, increase composting on campus, food recovery programs, creating guidance for catered events, & pre and post consumer waste

Composting:

- We rely on the Landscape Recycling Center, which is running pilot programs on food scraps collection
- Recently, tumblers have been placed at Newmark and Presby Hall
- Shreya says that if we do more composting, we need to be very clear about what can and cannot be composted
- Challenges inhibiting large scale composting on campus: most of the large scale commercial composters are in the Chicago area, therefore the University would have to ship
 - It may cost more than profit gained because the value of compost is low and there are not many buyers nearby

Recommendation ZW005 Review and Comments:

- "I can filter tap water myself to make it easier to drink" → make sure this question is clear in the sense that people are filtering water to make it safe to drink
- "I feel guilty throwing away plastic bottles after only using them once" → "I feel guilty throwing away plastic water bottles *if* I use them only once"
- Joy comments that the people who don't care will not fill this survey out

- Shreya adds that because there are so many questions on the survey, participants may get lazy and provide inaccurate answers
- Perhaps use this program as guidance [Loyola University's Gallons Saved and Shared Project](#), because they went door to door at residence halls to survey and incentivized college students with what they like – free food!
- Ultimately, it might be advantageous to create another survey that is only short answer, consisting of 3-4 open ended questions that basically cover everything
 - Most students have a short attention span when filling out google forms