Zero Waste Team

January Meeting Minutes

1/31/2025 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

*Teams*

**Meeting Minutes**

* Attendees
  + Daphne Hulse
  + Joy Scrogum
  + Anja Kranenburg
  + Warren LaVey
  + Zach Samaras
  + Betsy Ruckman
  + Myles Johnson
  + Pete Varney
  + Liz Bosarge
  + Jenna Schaefer
  + Timothy Knox
  + Charley Marchis
  + Aakanksha Chaubey
* Procurement Updates
  + Aaron Finder (procurement lead) is out for the semester due to family leave
    - Focus on gathering procurement data to prepare for his return
  + Discussion on forming a **Sustainable Procurement Task Force** to improve sustainable purchasing practices across the university system
  + Goals include:
    - Engaging suppliers on sustainability improvements.
    - Developing procurement guidelines and policies.
    - Training and engagement efforts for purchasers.
    - Exploring contract language that incorporates sustainability.
    - Addressing **Scope 3 Emissions** by analyzing supply chain risks and supplier sustainability.
  + Student assistance needed for:
    - Surveying decision-makers on purchasing challenges.
    - Reviewing current sustainable purchasing standards in **iBuy**.
    - Researching existing sustainable procurement models.
* Plastic Waste Reduction Initiative
  + Developing an **objective and metric-based approach** to plastic waste reduction
    - Need to determine how to quantify progress effectively
    - Identifying major sources of plastic waste through purchasing records
  + Seeking student help
* Composting at major campus events
  + New state bill in Illinois, **SB-2876,** requires recycling and composting at venues with capacities over 3,000 people
    - State Farm Center and Memorial Stadium are the only campus venues affected
  + Challenges:
    - No local facility capable of handing high composting volumes
    - **Urbana’s Landscape Recycling Center** accepts only limited food waste
    - **Waste Not** (Chicago-based) has interest in expanding, but there is no local disposal site
  + Upcoming Compost Projects:
    - **Sustainapalooza (April):** providing compostable food serviceware and setting up composting collection
    - **New Student Welcome Launch (August):** eliminated plastic last year, now expanding to include composting
  + Food Waste Diversion
    - Dining services uses **Grind2Energy** (food to energy system)
    - Potential to expand food donation programs to DIA events
    - Need to explore best disposal methods and policy adjustment
* Zero Waste Engagement and Visibility Initiatives
  + Tailgate recycling program enhancements
    - Large green roll-off recycling dumpsters for visibility
    - Planning a **mobile zero waste station** inspired by USC’s Zero Waste tailgate trailer
  + New recycling truck design
    - Campus recycling truck will feature new sustainability themed branding
    - Proposed designed emphasize recycling awareness using humor
    - Suggestion to add QR codes and website links for recycling resources