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