

PLASTIC REDUCTION PROJECT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Eliminate single use plastics on campus by working with departments across the university to change their practices. In first 2 years, start by organizing a bin area for people who bring plastic bags on to campus to recycle them and/or reuse them as garbage bags. In next segmented years, work to eliminate other single use plastics such as silverware, straws, to go boxes, etc. Also work with operations to strategically place water bottle refill stations and reusable coffee cup cleaners.

PROJECT UPDATES

Due to COVID safety measures, plastic use has increased. The student group worked with Dining Services in the Fall semester to swap Styrofoam with paper-based products. The students are communicating with dining to identify other ways to reduce plastic consumption for the fall semester.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Significantly reduce single-use plastic in dining services through reducing demand.
- Improve incentives for bringing reusable cups to coffee shops on campus.
- Department-wide audit on plastic use.
- Student survey sent out to the student body about plastic use.

AFFECTED METRICS



Metric	Metric Description	2021 Key Results
2.3	Percentage of food disposed of in a non-circular manner.	Divert 100% of pre-consumer food waste from landfill or incineration.
12.1	Proportion of total waste disposed of in a non-circular manner.	Conduct a waste audit and develop an action plan.
12.2	Percentage of food disposed of in a non-circular manner.	Divert 100% of pre-consumer food waste from landfill or incineration.
12.3	Campus recycling rate.	Conduct a waste audit and develop an action plan.
13.1	Scope 1 and 2 net greenhouse gas emissions.	Develop a plan to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions to meet the 1.5 IPCC report by 2020. Buy at least 10% of electricity from renewable sources.
14.2	Percent of unrecycled waste on campus.	Conduct a waste audit and develop an action plan.