Senate Resolution #8  
2015-16  
Environmental Sustainability Committee Encouragement of Zero Waste Initiative for RSOs

WHEREAS, it is the Environmental Sustainability Committee’s (ESC) goal to encourage environmental stewardship and education among the UNL student body, improve quality of campus life and the well being of the University community, and reduce the impact of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the environment; and,

WHEREAS, according to a UNL study conducted in the Spring of 2015, 50 percent of the University's total waste currently goes to the landfill, 80 percent of which in the City Campus Union is organic waste; and,

WHEREAS, there are over 500 registered student organizations (RSOs) at UNL, which represent an extremely large and diverse range of students and interests; and,

WHEREAS, after the success of ASUN’s first zero waste event, the Core Issues Summit, several RSOs present at the event, including MASA and College Republicans, expressed interest in holding their own zero waste events; and,

WHEREAS, a zero waste event constitutes diverting 90 percent or more of waste from the landfill by using compostable and recyclable materials and disposing of them appropriately.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that ASUN support ESC reaching out to RSOs on campus to promote and gain support of the zero waste initiative by providing the RSOs with information on how they can host zero waste events through collaboration with UNL recycling; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that this information be provided in the form of a step by step informational guide that will be provided to RSOs to explain the simple process of hosting a zero waste event sent via email; and,

THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that RSOs will also be encouraged to sign a pledge in support of the zero waste initiative.

SUBMITTED BY Environmental Sustainability Committee DATE 11-17-15

FLOOR ACTION Adopted by voice vote DATE 11-18-15

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE (s) Pres. T. Chau DATE 11-24-15
Dear campus leaders,

On behalf of ASUN’s Environmental Sustainability Committee, we are reaching out to UNL RSOs to promote an overall attitude of environmental sustainability. Recently, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln declared that in 2016 we will be styrofoam free. This successful initiative began with several students who noticed a need for change.

Our next goal is to work towards making UNL a zero-waste campus. We understand the scope of this task, and want to begin by encouraging RSOs to minimize the waste they produce by making their events zero-waste. An event is classified as zero-waste by diverting 90% of the waste from the landfill by using recyclable and compostable materials, and then disposing of them in the proper manner. Zero-waste events have proven to be successful so far since the beginning of the project, and the resources to hold zero-waste events already exist and are ready to be utilized. Attached is a document outlining the simple steps to hosting zero-waste events.

As a leader on our campus, we want your support in having all future ASUN sponsored and RSO events be zero-waste. Please sign this pledge supporting the zero-waste event initiative to maintain UNL’s position as a leader in campus sustainability:
http://goo.gl/forms/9ghNDpLhBe

If you have any questions or want to know more about zero-waste events, we would love to meet with your RSO to give you more information. If you are no longer a representative for your RSO, please forward this e-mail to the current representative or let us know.

Thank you for your time,

Members of the Environmental Sustainability Committee
2) Below is a picture of the pledge that RSO leaders will be encouraged to sign supporting the zero-waste event initiative.

Zero Waste Pledge

An event is classified as zero-waste if 90% of the waste is diverted from the landfill. This is done by using recyclable and compostable materials, and then disposing of them and other organic waste in the proper manner. As UNL Recycling already offers the services for disposal of recycling and compost, hosting zero-waste events is easy to do, and shows our dedication as a campus to environmental sustainability.

Full name:

Email:

What RSO do you represent?

As a representative of my RSO, I pledge that

- [ ] My RSO will work in the best of our ability to have all future events that we host be zero-waste
- [ ] My RSO supports all future ASUN sponsored events becoming zero-waste
3) Below is the document that will be attached to the initial e-mail, and handed out to RSOs in order to inform them of the simple steps of hosting a zero-waste event.

3 Easy Steps to Hosting a Zero-Waste Event at UNL

1) Buy compostable and recyclable materials
   • Since paper cups, plates, and napkins (even those containing a wax finish) are always industrially compostable, please use these items instead of plastics and styrofoam.
   • Ensure that if you are using silverware, it is compostable or recyclable.
   • Here is the link to an online vendor that ASUN has used to purchase these materials from in the past: [http://www.ecoproductsstore.com](http://www.ecoproductsstore.com), although paper cups, plates, and napkins can be found more inexpensively at any department store.

2) Request containers online from UNL recycling
   • Go to [www.recycling.unl.edu](http://www.recycling.unl.edu), and click on the tab “Request a Container”. Fill in the form including the building and location of your event, mark the request as temporary, specify the date and time of your event, specify the containers you want, and fill out your contact information. When specifying the containers, you need to request the clearstream containers and comment under the labels section “compost and recyclables”.
   • UNL recycling will drop off your containers before your event with the labels on them specifying with pictures what can go in each one. They will e-mail you asking where and when they should pick the containers up after your event.

3) Ensure that at your event, people are putting the different kinds of waste into the proper bins, and congratulations, you have hosted a zero-waste event!