

ASU Staff Council Sustainability Committee

2019 – Year in Review

Successes

- Zero Waste Blue Bag Sort
 - January 22nd, 2019
 - **8 committee members** assisted in sorting the contents of Blue Bags from across campus





Successes

- Carbon Free Day 2019
 - **1,500 pledges** to decrease carbon footprint were received
 - Competition to get the most pledges from coworkers and colleagues
 - We were vital to outreach efforts by sharing Earth Month events and tabling for Carbon Free Day
 - 9 of our committee members tabled on 5 different days! (including the Staff BBQ)



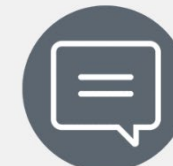
Transportation



Food



Energy and more



Create your own

Successes

- Save Paper @ ASU Subcommittee
 - Started in **April, 2019** out of concern for paper usage on campus
 - Created a research document to obtain a “**sustainability option**” for on-campus printed publications (e-option)
 - Collected examples of publications
 - Created an email template to send to staff/departments
 - Branching out into paper use at printers/copiers
 - Goal: to create a PDF with information on how to save paper



Successes

- Sustainable Purchasing Toolkit Subcommittee
 - Started one year ago to make sustainable purchasing more accessible to the ASU community
 - Survey was completed and sent in May – received 133 responses
 - Will complete flowchart and survey executive summary by the end of Dec 2019

Catering and events on campus

Do you have the option to incorporate sustainable catering options into your next event?

Yes

Review the "[sustainable catering](#)" menu through Aramark, review the approved vendors list and the companies that have green practices, and incorporate [zero waste](#) options.

No

Encourage these options for your next event! Planting the seed about these options and planning is crucial. Be sure to refer to the [Catering and Food Policies](#) website and the [approved vendor list](#).

Themes identified as important topics from the survey we conducted

Education

Cost

Bulk Ordering

Food

Vendor options

Successes

- Letter to ASU Zero Waste
 - Our committee sent an informative letter to Zero Waste in October regarding our shared concerns about waste on campus
 - We received a response!

October 10th, 2019

To: Arizona State University, Zero Waste Department

From: Arizona State University, Staff Council Sustainability Committee

Dear Zero Waste Team,

My name is Emmery Ledin, and I am writing to you on behalf of the ASU Staff Council Sustainability Committee. Our committee is comprised of 74 ASU staff members from a wide variety of departments and campuses, with approximately 20 of those being highly active members who attend every monthly meeting.

During a recent meeting, I led a discussion about the largest concerns we, as staff members, have about the sustainability of our university, and our concern about **waste** was the most prevalent. The following letter presents those concerns and the solutions we have generated to address them.

Concern #1: Unsustainable Swag Giveaways

“Swag” items given away at events around campus are creating unnecessary waste, are ordered in-excess and are rarely made of recyclable or compostable materials. Some of the “swag” items aren’t necessarily something that students/attendees would want to keep, so they end up as waste. Examples of these items are cheap plastic jewelry, pop sockets, small drinking cups, wristbands and similar items.

Recommendations

We recommend that departments on campus be encouraged to purchase sustainable promotional items that people will reuse or want to keep. Departments could consider virtual giveaways, coupons or drawings for larger items (not to exceed \$25 per item); this will ultimately decrease the environmental impact of promotions. Departments should also be encouraged to purchase promotional items that are made from recyclable or compostable materials and consider the message they’d like to send to their audience via their giveaways.

Concern #2: Boxed Lunches

Boxed lunches are a common catering option around campus, as they are normally less expensive, less labor-intensive and can satisfy a crowd. However, these lunches generally consist of a sandwich wrapped in plastic, a side in a plastic cup, plastic utensils wrapped in plastic, a dessert wrapped in plastic and single-sized condiment packets, all inside of a cardboard box. The waste generation of these lunches is exorbitant and their disposable nature is not necessary for most events held on campus.

Plans and Goals for 2020



- The **Sustainability Committee** is responsible for:
 - Understanding issues impacting environmental sustainability
 - Identifying programs and services available, and recommending changes, enhancements, or establishments of programs to address these issues

Plans and Goals for 2020



What is something new we should do to advance sustainability at ASU?

- **Earth Month 2020 – 50 Year Anniversary**
 - Determine how we can best contribute and work with other departments on campus
- Take a new group photo for the website 😊
- Complete our recipe book and post on our site, send to SOS
- Wrap up the Sustainable Purchasing Toolkit project
- Advance efforts of the Save Paper subcommittee
- Add a new subcommittee?
- Homecoming 2020 – help with sustainability
- Schedule speakers to attend some of our meetings
 - Who?
- Schedule another Blue Bag sort, or other group volunteer activity
 - Borderlands: December 21st from 7 am – noon