

California State University Dominguez Hills

2022 Zero Waste Action Plan Update

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Contact: CSUDH Office of Sustainability, Facilities Services, NSM F-127

2022 Calendar Year Update

Since the implementation of the Zero Waste Action Plan in 2020, volumes from Republic Services currently tracked by the Office of Sustainability were used for the purposes of internal and state recycling reporting. Sensor technology was used to track the average fill rates on a monthly basis.

Based on the available data compared to 2021, CSUDH generated the following tonnages in 2022:

Year	Trash (Tons)	Recycle (Tons)	Organics (Tons)	Diversion(%)
2021	618.10	563.35	73.89	50%
2022	819.92	653.79	256.62	52%

In order to achieve a 90% diversion rate assuming similar waste generation volumes year by year, CSUDH would need to identify solutions that would divert or avoid 647 tons of trash from ending up in the landfill.

Challenges

It is evident that the tonnage in 2022's reporting is greater than that of 2021. All students, faculty, and staff were required to work remotely in 2020 due to the pandemic. Some faculty and staff were allowed to work on campus beginning Fall 2021 and had to work remotely once more due to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Spring 2022 and were welcomed back to campus that summer. When faculty and staff were fully in-person and on-campus Fall 2022, there was a high demand for office remodeling, move outs, and requests for cleaning, thus increasing tonnage for the reporting year of 2022. Although tonnage was high, campus users began to use the new bin infrastructure, bringing diversion up by 2% in 2022.

Program Updates

Improved Bin Infrastructure

In 2022, 75 color-coded landfill, recycle, and organics containers were grouped and placed throughout hallways and building corridors with sorting signage to ensure proper waste sorting. 138 color-coded all-weather receptacles were placed outside on campus walkways and courtyards. In addition to these containers, 169-23 gallon color coded containers labeled for recycle, compost, and landfill were implemented throughout office spaces and

classrooms. These bins are serviced daily by custodial services (for interior bins) and Grounds (for exterior bins).

 A large, grey and blue recycling bin with a red panel on the front that says "CSUDH". The top has two sections: "RECYCLING" with icons for paper, plastic, and glass, and "LANDFILL" with icons for food waste, cardboard, and other trash. A green bin is attached to the side.	 Two slim jim bins, one grey and one blue, standing on a red base. The blue bin has a white recycling symbol. Below the bins is the text "CSUDH SUSTAINABILITY" and "ZERO WASTE STATION" with a small disclaimer: "IF FULL, PLEASE CONTACT FACILITIES SERVICES WORK CONTROL @ (916) 343-2087 or (916) 343-2884".
<p>Central Zero Waste Stations Located in hallways and department/ office spaces</p>	<p>Interior Slim Jim Zero Waste Stations 23-gallon slim jims located in limited space locations such as office spaces and break rooms</p>



Exterior Zero Waste Station

Located in campus walkways, courtyards, and outside of buildings

Contamination

Although new bin infrastructure was implemented in 2022, contamination was found in all three waste streams. The items listed below were commonly found in various dumpster locations on campus, which do not belong to that specific waste stream:

Dumpster type	Contamination
Trash (landfill bin)	Food scraps Plastic to-go containers Clear plastic Starbucks cups
Recycle Bin	Chip bags Starbucks cups for hot drinks Plastic straws Plastic cutlery Waxy cardboard to-go containers
Compost Bin	Waxy coated disposable plates Bioplastics

Although signage is picture based and lists items not accepted in each waste stream, confusion on certain items continues to be an issue. Further diversion education is needed as well as prioritizing reduce and reuse measures to assist with contamination issues.

2022 Calendar Year Activities

To support the goals of the Zero Waste Action Plan, the Office of Sustainability implemented programs to help CSUDH adopt zero waste practices.

- On January 12th, 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the CSUEU with the acceptable terms for supporting the zero-waste program at CSUDH and to help the campus with its diversion efforts. The MOU states that deskside bins are to be considered employee's personal property, and CSUEU members who choose to keep these bins are responsible for servicing, cleaning, and maintaining their own bins which will no longer be serviced by custodians or provided liners. This forces the user to think about waste generation and the proper placement of items in the correct receptacle. Only common area zero waste stations will continue to be serviced by custodial/Grounds.
- Since the start of 2020, Pop-Up Thrift events were continued in 2022 at the beginning and end of each semester to allow students, faculty, and staff to donate or take necessities for free in an effort to divert unwanted office supplies and dorm necessities from the landfill.
- Campus Dining continues to use the Toro Token program, which was launched in the Fall of 2019, where visitors could buy a \$5 token and exchange it to get a clean reusable container instead of a disposable container for their meals. Dining collects and washes the dirty/returned containers and hands back the token to the user. Approximately 500 reusable containers are now in circulation as a result.
- The Sustainability Club has been a registered chapter of the national Food Recovery Network since December 2018. Every week they collect unsold, edible food from Campus Dining and deliver it to campus food pantries. In 2022, they recovered 1,559.6 lbs. of food, preventing it from entering the landfill.
- Since January 1, 2019, the CSU has mandated a CSU Single Use Plastics Policy which assures, to the maximum extent economically feasible, the purchase of single-use plastics including plastic straws, plastic water bottles, and plastic bags are eliminated. Purchase preference shall be given to reusable products, followed by locally compostable and/or recyclable products. Procurement, auxiliaries, and all relevant stakeholders will work with campus sustainability staff to assess and select the most sustainable alternatives.

- Zero waste educational activities were hosted at the Farmers Market every Tuesday during the academic semester in efforts to engage and educate the campus community on zero waste practices and campus initiatives.

Future Activities

Future Activities for the 2023 Calendar Year

To continue supporting CSUDH's zero waste efforts, the Office of Sustainability will be pursuing the following initiatives in more depth over the course of the 2023 calendar year:

Planned Initiative	Impact	Category
Continued Aramark partnership & support for food donations from Dining	Increase diversion	Organics
Aramark and Toro Token Educational Support	Campus dining zero waste initiative	Zero Waste
Pop-Up Thrift Event Increased Frequency	Reduce usable supplies going to the landfill, Increase e-waste recycling education	Service Reduction
CleanCityNetworks Sensor Data Upkeep	Right-size campus with proper service frequency	Service Reduction
Housing Support	Implement internal recycle and compost containers amongst residents, Encourage sustainable living	Diversion
Waste Audits	Identify areas of contamination and user behavior	Diversion/ Contamination
Farmers Market Zero Waste Punch Card	Encourage zero waste user behavior by rewarding bringing reusable items to campus	Zero Waste
New Employee Orientation	Provide new employees with zero waste practices, campus goals, and initiatives	Outreach and Education
New Student Orientation	Provide new employees with zero waste practices, campus goals, and initiatives	Outreach and Education

Custodian Training	Provide education on proper waste separation and service specifics for internal zero waste stations	Outreach and Education
Grounds Training	Provide education on proper waste separation and service specifics for internal zero waste stations	Outreach and Education
Special Events	Implementation of recycle and organics receptacles in addition to trash	Diversion
Custom Signage for External Zero Waste Stations	Increase proper material separation	Diversion/ Contamination

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