

Zero Waste Team
February Meeting Minutes
2/28/2025 1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Teams

Meeting Minutes

- Attendees
 - Daphne Hulse
 - Joy Scrogum
 - Anja Kranenburg
 - Pete Varney
 - Zach Samaras
 - Timothy Knox
 - Betsy Ruckman
 - Faye Wettstein
 - Jenna Schaefer
 - Liz Bosarge
 - Charley Marchis
- Open Forum for Zero Waste Exploration
 - Environmentally preferable procurement
 - Currently gathering information on challenges and opportunities for campus purchasers
 - Four responses received so far, with more expected
 - Collaboration with Anja to analyze responses for discussion in the next meeting

- Per capita landfill data
 - Focused on football game waste data from the past four seasons
 - Key trends observed:
 - Waste per year appears to be increasing
 - Big 10 games generate higher waste
 - Longer tailgate durations correlate with more waste
 - Further analysis needed to separate tailgate waste from stadium waste
- Volunteer data review
 - Data compiled for 2023-2024
 - Basketball: 3 games, 303 hours, 185 volunteers
 - Football: 4 tailgates, 336 hours, 84 volunteers
 - Retained contact info for potential future outreach
- Green Sports Alliance collaboration
 - Submitted a case study on the tailgate waste reduction program
 - Awaiting feedback from the alliance
- ISTC Waste Audit Project
 - Testing AI-based waste sorting software

- Partnering with startup Rego
 - The system uses image recognition to categorize waste
 - Manual audits will be conducted alongside AI tests for comparison
 - Testing scheduled for April 23-25, 2025
- Upcoming Events
 - Sustainapalooza (April 12; Rain date: May 3)
 - Collaboration with Waste Not for composting efforts
 - Partnership with Student Affairs and Dining for sustainability goals
 - Dump & Run (May 12-18 and July 15-31)
 - Expansion planned for Ashton Woods and Orchard Downs
 - Exploring alternative donation partners due to Goodwill no longer offering free services
 - [Water and Waste Management Conference](#) (May 27-28, UIC)
 - Opportunity for presentations related to zero waste initiatives
 - [Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress](#) (June 16-19, Chicago)
 - Discount available for UI students and staff
 - [Collegiate Sports Sustainability Conference](#) (July 13-15, Duke University)
- Open Forum for Students, Faculty, and Staff

- Plastic waste reduction metric
 - Bin liner reduction and desk-side bin removal (All in the Hall initiative)
 - Proposed program to eliminate desk-side bins and encourage centralized waste disposal
 - Expected benefits:
 - Reduced plastic waste from bin liners
 - More efficient custodial workload
 - Increased proper recycling rates
 - Awaiting administrative approval before implementation
 - Nitrile glove recycling
 - Dining re-establishing a recycling program
 - Pilot program possibility for campus building service workers
 - Need to verify if recycling programs avoid waste-to-energy incineration