

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SPRING SEMESTER 2017

IN THE SENATE
RESOLUTION SRS17.2

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A Resolution Supporting a Zero Waste Plan

WHEREAS the United States produces 30 % of the world's waste despite comprising only four percent of the global population¹; and

WHEREAS One of the seven principles of *Whitman College's Core Environmental Principles* is “to reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials, to reuse materials when possible, and utilize recycled materials”²; and

WHEREAS Whitman has already committed to mitigating waste in the “Solid Waste and Purchasing” section of the *Climate Action Plan* (CAP); and

WHEREAS Whitman has yet to adequately uphold the objectives regarding waste as outlined in the CAP and *Core Environmental Principles*; and

WHEREAS peer institutions in our Panel of 13 such as Macalester College,³ Colorado College,⁴ and Oberlin College⁵ have already established a Zero Waste Plan; and

WHEREAS the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) has already recognized a series of clubs dedicated to the mitigation of landfill waste such as Organic Garden, Glean Team, and Campus Climate Coalition; and

WHEREAS Whitman College is producing 201 pounds of waste per student per year and Portland State University is producing 23.4 pounds⁶; and

¹ Heather Rogers, *Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage* (New York: New Press, 2006), 2.

² Whitman College Office of Sustainability:
<https://www.whitman.edu/about/campus-sustainability/mission-and-principles>

³ Macalester's Zero Waste Plan:
<https://www.macalester.edu/sustainability/data-reports/MacalesterSustainabilityPlanSept2009.pdf>

⁴ Oberlin's Zero Waste Plan:
https://new.oberlin.edu/office/environmental-sustainability/ces/Environmental_Policy_Implementation_Plan_Adopted_2015.pdf

⁵ Colorado College:
<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/sustainability/report/>

⁶ AASHE STARS: <https://stars.aashe.org/>

WHEREAS the College is currently spending over \$75,000 to dispose of its waste⁷; and

WHEREAS Whitman's waste disposed in landfills is steadily increasing to one and half tons of waste per trip, on an average of nine trips per month⁸; and

WHEREAS 50% of the College's waste disposed in landfills could be recycled⁹; and

WHEREAS there is serious concern from the student body to find strategies of mitigating food, yard, and consumer waste; and

WHEREAS Whitman College is currently in violation of the State of Washington law **RCW 70.93.093** by operating some events on campus without having a complementary recycling service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASWC Sustainability Committee has created a **2018-2030 Zero Waste Plan** (Appendix 1) for Whitman College.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by 2018, there shall be 50% mitigation of our waste through the implementation of the items and programs listed below:

- Uniform campus waste bins in shape, color, and function;
- A purchasing guide for students, staff, and faculty that will be distributed at the beginning of the school year;
- An annual rummage "trade and sell" on move-out day where Whitman and Walla Walla residents can exchange old possessions to be reused, thus greatly reducing Whitman's end-of-the-year waste;
- A vermicomposting program as a cheaper solution, while the College evaluates a more extensive program option;
- Requiring future purchases of PCs, monitors, image displays, televisions, and mobile phones to meet the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Gold Standard level on electronic purchases;
- Requiring future purchases of appliances to meet or be endorsed by Energy STAR or an equivalent organization;
- Mandating the recycling of discarded materials at College recognized events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by 2020, there shall be 70% mitigation of our waste through the implementation of the items listed below:

- The centralization of the Office of Sustainability;
- The hiring of a Zero Waste Assistant;
- The recycling of 70% of the waste generated from the College's construction projects;
- The implementation of a Recycling Incentive Program;
- The certification of E-Waste Recycling;
- The implementation of a composting program;

⁷ Office of Sustainability

⁸ Office of Sustainability

⁹ Office of Sustainability

- The centralization of purchasing;
- The observance of International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) green laboratory standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by 2025, there shall be 75% mitigation of our waste through the implementation of the items listed below:

- A glass recycling program;
- A display of mitigation and diversion rates among residence halls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by 2030, there shall be 90% mitigation of our waste through the implementation of the items listed below:

- A vegetable oil recovery and recycling program;
- A greywater recycling program.

Distributed to:

President Kathy Murray
 Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Chuck Cleveland
 Vice President for Communications and Public Relations Joshua Jensen
 Incoming Dean of Students Daren Mooko
 Dean of Students' Office
 Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Kazi Joshua
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 Whitman Wire
 The Union Bulletin
 The Seattle Times
 The Office of Sustainability
 Organic Garden
 Glean Team
 Mycology Club
 Campus Climate Coalition
 The Outhouse (Environmental House)
 The President's Sustainability Advisory Committee
 Physical Plant Staff