

ZERO WASTE SUMMARY

March 15, 2019



Sustainability is a fundamental aspect of the value system of Cal State San Marcos. It is addressed with a goal of Zero Waste by 2025 in the Sustainability Master Plan, aligns with Finance and Administrative Services division strategic objective of fostering a culture of sustainability and CSUSM's strategic priority of demonstrating commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

While the campus has a historically successful recycling program, it is only natural as the campus grows to 25,000 students our efforts need to evolve and expand accordingly. The Zero Waste Plan arose as a method to assist the campus community in understanding the necessary change in perspective from a simple recycling program to a holistic approach of reviewing the entire supply chain that serves the campus needs.

The goal of the Zero Waste plan is based on continuous improvement to consistently reduce the amount of material coming to campus and going to the landfill, a functional zero. This objective will require the campus community to examine policies and procedures such as purchasing, catering and events, process inefficiencies, etc. in search of more sustainable alternatives.

- California Assembly Bill 341 (Chesbro) established a mandatory recycling rate of 75 percent of solid waste by 2020.
- CSUSM averaged a 78 percent recycling rate in 2017
- Next milestone is set at 80 percent by 2020
- To be Zero Waste, functionally zero, by 2025

The downside of having a high recycling rate is the campus has already accomplished the easy tasks. The two areas with the highest amount of waste are the USU and the UVA.

- USU's waste includes leftover food and food related items (plates, utensils, napkins)
- UVA's waste is comprised of household materials (food and food related items, cleaning products and personal hygiene products)



While the most impactful way of decreasing the amount of material sent to the landfill would be to begin a composting program, a commercial option is not available to the campus as this time.

- Our waste hauler has broken ground on a facility, anticipate service late 2019
- A full roll out campaign will be developed in the interim
- Focus on developing educational programs, signage campaigns and other outreach methods to increase USU & UVA recycling

Campus wide efforts will be made to explain why and how the recycling program needs to evolve into a more comprehensive methodology to minimize waste produced on campus. To become truly sustainable, CSUSM will have to become more proactive and adopt policies that limit the need for corrective action. Becoming Zero Waste requires a holistic approach, understanding the entire supply chain that serves our campus needs and how the items we no longer need can find new life and purpose.