

# ZERO WASTE SUMMARY

May 7, 2021



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 reduce the amount of material coming to campus and waste going to the landfill. 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.

In general, the campus follows the definition developed by the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) which reads:

Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.



The year of 2020 provided the experience for our campus to operate remotely for students, staff and faculty. While we learned immeasurable ways to provide a solid education for our students and make the best out of remote work environments, we also significantly reduced many unsustainable practices. Student work was all submitted online instead of printed paper and campus paper purchasing dropped by 70%.

As the campus prepares to return to normal operations we encourage our community to maintain the sustainable lessons learned. Process improvements such as these will greatly improve the effort toward becoming a zero waste campus.