

2022

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC REDUCTION

at ASU



INTRODUCTION

Plastic waste has become a wicked problem throughout the world. More plastic has been produced in the last decade than in the last century¹. Traditionally, governments are slow to react to even urgent issues due to the bureaucracy surrounding them. For this reason, it is imperative that organizations and college campuses do not wait to act mitigate the damage that plastic waste causes.

The expertise of team Frizbeez was sought out by Arizona State University's Sustainability and Procurement Programs Manager to critically analyze the university's consumption of single-use plastic, and to provide implementable solutions at strategic intervention points.

Plastic waste is a problem recognized by universities, communities, and cities all over the country, and we have conducted interviews, researched, brought stakeholders together, and analyzed data to help ASU on its journey forward to address this pervasive problem.

Team Frizbeez has eight high-priority recommendations we urge ASU to take into consideration to eliminate single-use plastic on campus. To view the comprehensive report with findings supporting this report and the recommendations [here](#)

GOAL OF
90%
WASTE DIVERSION BY
2025



REFERENCES

1. Lebreton, L., Slat, B., Ferrari, F., Sainte-Rose, B., Aitken, J., & Marthouse, R. et al. (2018). *Evidence that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is rapidly accumulating plastic*. *Scientific reports*, 8(1), 1-15.

RECOMMENDATIONS

01

Centralized Leadership

Designation and empowerment of an overarching accountable representative to ensure cohesion across sustainability initiatives.

02

Leveraging Human Capital

Utilization of faculty, staff, students, and the creation of sustainability analysts roles to drive cohesion across the university's many sustainability initiatives.

03

Update Purchasing & Vendor Policy

Adopt requirement-based standardized policy language that embeds sustainability into the procurement process.

04

Establish Mechanisms to Enforce Compliance

Require sustainability based educational training for all personnel with purchasing authority.

05

Partnerships & Collaborations

Foster relationships with leading organizations that have committed to eliminating single-use plastic.

06

Transparent Progress Reporting

The curation of a single-use plastic reduction timeline designating explicit metrics to measure and report progress over time.

07

Implementation of Green Fee

The introduction of a \$10-\$20 fee to explicitly fund sustainability initiatives.

08

Investments in Reusable & Compostable Infrastructure

Allocation of space, capital, and personnel to enable success in a plastic reduction strategy.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Arizona State University has recently been ranked among the top U.S. universities for creating global impact surrounding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), for the second consecutive year. Team Frizbee's recommendations are aligned with the SDG's to deliver impact through sustainability initiatives.



The more you know: ASU and Plastic

- In 2018, ASU's campuses sent more than 1,100 tons of plastics to landfill and recycling, with 82% of that going directly to landfill, averaging 23lbs per student.
- In 2020, 98.8% of surveyed students and faculty would be willing to switch to reusable utensils if provided by the university. More than 160 responses were collected in less than two hours.
- In 2018, 39% respondents (n=125) have claimed they have little familiarity with ASU's sustainable purchasing guidance.

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[Link Comprehensive Report Here](#)



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