

UNC Charlotte ZeroWaste FootBall Project



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The idea was to have one of the first Football stadiums in the country to implement a waste reduction program from the very beginning. Our approach has been to work closely with multiple University programs. We worked out an Agreement that everything sold from the stadium vendors is either recyclable or compost-able. We then set up a system of bins to keep recycling, and compost waste separate. Dumpsters that matched accordingly were purchased to help keep it easy for the janitorial service. Along with these measures we needed to make sure that the crowd followed and understood the program. To do this we had each bin monitored by Student volunteers who we trained to know the program and have the ability to inform others what Zerowaste was trying to accomplish. We worked with UNC Charlotte sororities, and ROTC as our primary volunteer pool, but we also had openings for non-organization volunteers. Another aspect of the project was the Installation of six water bottle filling stations and allowing for empty clear water bottles to be brought into the stadium. This was an Effort to reduce the amount of bottled water purchased.

We keep track of our statistics by weighing all the waste in the dumpsters at the end of the game. The recycling center later would report to us the weight in tons of recyclable material collected. Green farms, the Compost Company we worked would report the amount of compost material collected. We then subtracted the difference.

Season 1

Game Date	Opponent	Recycling (R.)	Compost (C.)	Landfill(L)	T- Diverted	T-Waste	% Diverted
8/31/2013	Campbell	1.05	2.21	1.950	3.26	5.21	0.63
9/7/2013	Chowan	0.88	3.73	0.520	4.61	5.13	0.90
9/14/2013	NCCU	0.94	1.72	0.390	2.66	3.05	0.87
10/5/2013	Garder Webb	1.70	1.58	0.350	3.28	3.63	0.90
10/12/2013	UNC Pembroke	1.35	2.21	0.230	3.56	3.79	0.94
11/9/2013	Wesley	1.00	1.54	0.760	2.54	3.30	0.77
	Season total	6.92	12.99	4.200	19.91	24.11	0.83

On top of a very successful first season we were rewarded 2014 NACAS southern region outstanding collaboration and partnership award.

This next season we will mostly be focusing on refining our system to make sure it runs as efficiently as possible. One measure we are taking is introducing new signage above each bin to make what goes where easier to follow. Our long term goal is to expand Zerowaste to all the other Sports arenas on campus. This is a very feasible project for other campuses and we would be honored to share our story and what we learned with other interested parties.

References

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