

Team Name: Green Gang

Username: szundel

Email Address: sawyer.zundel@mymail.champlain.edu

School: Champlain College

Share three wasteful practices you have observed in your home, school, or community.

1. Especially in the midst of social distancing, more students than ever are relying on food delivery from chains, which involves massive amounts of plastic that piles up in the dumpsters.
2. Small gatherings right now tend to use large amounts of single-use plastic items rather than compostable options.
3. The trash and recycling dumpsters outside my apartment tend to fill up very quickly, and when the recycling one is full, recycling ends up getting thrown into the trash by many residents.

Share two takeaways from each resource.

Story of Plastic Take Action Kit

- I am a nurturer, meaning that a vital part of my role in making change is nurturing and empowering other changemakers, sharing my strength with them and supporting them in their efforts however I can.
- It's possible to host a screening of The Story of Plastic for free in my community, which could be used as a peer education event at my college.

Greenpeace Toolkit

- Elected officials need to do their part to decrease inessential single-use plastic items use by 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2030.
- Templates and scripts are available for emails, phone calls, letters, and petitions to officials about this issue, making it very easy to not only contact your officials, yourself, but also to equip peers with everything they need to do so, as well.

Post Landfill Action Network Toolkit

- Everybody on campus is a stakeholder in plastic reduction in some way or another. Figuring out how every population and organization campus connects to the issue is a vital step in collaborating.
- Start small with a campaign and gradually expand. Trying to start it out at too large of a scale could just get it caught up in "administrative run-arounds".

Zero Waste Home

- A fun motivation to go 0-waste in the kitchen can be the use of a zero-waste recipe binder keeping only zero-waste recipes.

- You can donate extra office supplies to school art programs, which are always looking for supplies and materials.

5 Gyres Trash Academy

- Some plastics contain the toxins polystyrene and/or polyvinyl chloride.
- Plastic fibers enter wastewater very easily, causing them to poison water systems.

What steps would you need to implement this project?

For my project, I want to address the plastic from ordering delivery from chains in my school community through a mixture of a poster campaign about alternatives to delivery and a series of informational events about the environmental hazards of plastic. To break this down further, I will follow these steps:

- 1) Create posters and infographics illustrating alternatives to delivery services, such as local restaurants offering takeout and other meal options such as Hello Fresh. Though Champlain's Eco-Reps, these could be hung up in each residence hall and the infographic could probably be shared by the Center for Service and Sustainability.
- 2) Host events around campus centered around the hazards of plastic and why it's important to avoid single-use plastic. This could be done with a screening of *The Story of Plastic*, as well as tabling campaigns. Additionally, I can host a trash pickup walk event in which I can welcome conversation about plastic while everyone is seeing litter in the environment first-hand.

Who would you need to involve in the process?

I would need the help of the college's Eco-Reps to get the posters up in the residence hall, but as the captain of Eco-Reps this is absolutely doable. The events and tabling would simply need approval by the director for the Center for Service and Sustainability.

What are some potential barriers you might face and how will you overcome them?

The only major barrier that I can see is the potential lack of engagement with the tabling and events due to the limited amount of on-campus students. This can be overcome by making this effort accessible to all students, perhaps through encouraging remote students to organize their own trash pickup walks.

Write a thoughtful step-by-step plan using the information you learn from the resources above.

- 1) First, I need to get approval from the director of the Center for Service and Sustainability to have the Eco-Reps team participate in this campaign for food delivery alternatives.
- 2) After this is complete, I will lead a workshop in Eco-Reps about delivery alternatives, then task the team with creating posters for their residence halls, as well as PSAs about the topic for the team's social media.
- 3) I will then create signups for the tabling campaign and for Eco-Reps to assist with hosting the trash pickup walk events and the *Story of Plastic* screening.
- 4) All of these events, being hosted through Eco-Reps, will be advertised on several of Champlain College's social media accounts.

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Instagram



2020greengang
Burlington, Vermont



2020greengang Burlington Vermont is famous for its food, but it can be all too easy to fall into the trap of ordering delivery day after day. This month, it's time to explore the local restaurants that our community has to offer. With posters, trash pickup walks, and the help of our school's fantastic Eco-Reps team, we're going to help show our community what you miss out on by ordering delivery every day and how much better it is for the environment to avoid all of the waste from delivery. #pgc2020

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