



Maryland Institute College of Art

Sustainability, as defined in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development, means "forms of progress that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

At MICA we promote sustainability through recycling, energy conservation, green products, and environmental issues. To accomplish this, the MICA Sustainability Initiative engaged with Waste Neutral Group (WNG) to compost their organic waste rather than sending it to a landfill or for incineration. MICA recognized that along with the institutions traditional recyclables (paper, plastic, aluminum) food waste is also a resource. Each spring MICA will realize the results of their food waste recycling efforts when they incorporate the compost they helped to create into their landscaping projects and upkeep.

Initiating and mediating contract process

The existing contract between MICA and their hauling vendor did not provide separate composting services nor did they offer such services. In order for food residuals and other organic wastes to be captured out of the waste stream, diverted from landfills, a new hauler relationship was required. WNG now provides hauling services to MICA and projections show that MICA's costs will be lowered as well.

Outreach to student groups for support and involvement with new practices

Working with student groups provides an organic approach to our practice. It allows for the student body to feel included in the goings-on of campus. It also allows familiar faces to greet students with new information, often times ignored or challenged when solely provided by college personnel. We identified and contacted all student groups that may want to offer their assistance in promoting the program. We meet regularly with them and discuss their role, plan meetings, and offer training so they can assist with implementation.

Educational outreach to students about new practices

Working with the Office of Residence Life and Off Campus Housing, we identified placement positions for educational outreach materials at key junctions to impact the highest number of students.

Finally, Waste Neutral Group is aware that most students receive the majority of their information from email and other electronic announcements. Working with the appropriate offices, Waste Neutral Group will assist in the design of such notifications in order to broadcast changes in the cafeteria.

Identify areas in which alternative products may be procured by the cafeteria

During the initial evaluation of the cafeteria, it was clear that there were some procurement alternatives worth investigating. Products exist that could replace the Styrofoam containers used for to-go food. Further investigation showed use of utensils, to-go ware, straws, and the like. Alternatives exist for many of these items and they are not always cost-prohibitive. WNG advised on alternative (compostable) products and MICA is in the process of replacing to-go products.

Continuing education

WNG continues to work with the Office of Residence Life & Off-Campus Housing to create institutionalized methods of information distribution with incoming freshman and new students. These include, but not be limited to:

- Information regarding waste practices distributed to prospective students
- Tours of campus that would highlight/mention waste practices to prospective students
- New-student handbooks with waste practices described
- Signage in appropriate locations within the cafeteria that would describe waste practices
- Assigning a person (student or staff) for the first 2-3 weeks of each semester to guide students on where to dispose of their waste

Exhibit A



on behalf of this plant



we would like to thank you



for composting your food waste

next time you think about throwing things away...
ask yourself...where is away?



before you think about throwing away your food...



ask yourself...where is away?



PLEASE DON'T WASTE FOOD - GRAZE, DON'T GLUTTON
Eat all you want in small portions



- Two different posters that were customized to reflect MICA logo or any additional messaging
- Table tents to reinforce messaging
- Bi-lingual training and instructional material for food and janitorial staff that meets Six Sigma standards