



# ZERO WASTE AMBASSADOR EMORY

## **Zero Waste Ambassadors Charge**

**Background:** The Zero Waste Ambassadors (ZWAs) have been vital to helping the Emory community reduce and divert landfill waste. With the return to in-person learning, the campus can expect to see a dramatic increase in students, and therefore an increase in overall waste. However, the re-opening of campus offers opportunities for ZWAs to continue some aspects of virtual outreach and education and to engage in opportunities that were not available in the past year, including in-person training and waste education at campus events.

Emory's 2025 Sustainability Vision sets the goal of 95% diversion of our waste from landfills. In June 2021, President Fenves also committed to reducing unnecessary single-use plastics by 2026. Emory is showing national leadership in protecting our neighborhoods from the negative social, economic, and environmental impacts of landfills. We owe it to our surrounding communities and future generations to lead the way to a post-landfill future.

**Mission:** Zero Waste Ambassadors will empower students, faculty and staff with the knowledge and resources to actualize the Sustainability Vision goals pertaining to reducing and diverting waste. It is critical to foster a community that recognizes the value of circular systems and their intersections with environmental justice, resource conservation and a regenerative economy. ZWAs will gain the tools and leadership skills to educate others and the agency to share feedback on how to improve Emory's systems, communication and culture to achieve these goals.

**Vision:** A group of student, faculty, and staff volunteers, who are actively willing to champion waste management and reduction in all areas of the Emory experience. A Zero Waste Ambassador strives to promote a culture at Emory that prioritizes reducing and diverting waste in all decisions that we make as individuals and as a community. As thousands of students return to campus this Fall, Zero Waste Ambassadors will be vital in communicating proper reduction and disposal methods across campus, as well as relaying questions to the Office of Sustainability Initiatives Staff.

### **Goals:**

- Train Zero Waste Ambassadors as a resource for the campus community
- Increase understanding of and engagement in Zero Waste practices
- Conduct outreach in respective academic units
- Identify campus decision-makers and support efforts to reduce and divert waste

- Reestablish confidence in Emory’s composting systems by communicating the effectiveness of the university’s new waste vendor
- Aid in and communicate proper disposal of PPE and other coronavirus-related disposables

***Structure/ Expectations:*** The Zero Waste Ambassador team will:

- Complete an initial training session with the Office of Sustainability Initiatives
- Review the latest ZWA updates posted on the OSI website and circulated through the OSI newsletter
- Listen to community questions regarding waste and report back to OSI when you need more information
- Lead at least one outreach campaign or (virtual) event with members of the Emory community. Outreach ideas include, but are not limited to:
  - Co-leading a virtual or in-person “trash talk” pop-in meeting to answer waste reduction and sorting questions
  - Leading a virtual or in-person zero waste training for your student group, department, residence hall, lab, etc. with the support of the OSI staff as requested
  - Providing waste sorting advice to attendees at on-campus events
  - Contributing to a blog post on the OSI website
  - Contributing to social media posts about zero waste through OSI Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter accounts
  - Integrating zero waste information into existing communications channels from your network
  - Sharing waste management strategies for students living off-campus
  - Creating your own campaigns that OSI can support!

[Join our Zero Waste Ambassador team today!](#)

\*Please note: The university’s decision to reduce unnecessary single-use plastics on campus by 2026 will surely impact the Zero Waste Ambassadors program. However, the steps that will be taken to enact this pledge are independent from ZWA work, and ambassadors will not have additional responsibilities related to the announcement.