



ZERO WASTE AMBASSADOR EMORY

Zero Waste Ambassadors Charge 2022-2023

Background: The Zero Waste Ambassadors (ZWAs) program has been vital in helping the Emory community reduce and divert landfill waste. ZWAs use outreach and education to encourage proper waste disposal and create a more sustainable campus. [Emory's Sustainability Vision](#) sets the goal of all university events being zero landfill waste and diverting 95% of our waste from municipal landfills by 2025. In 2021, President Fenves additionally committed to a five-year plan of reducing unnecessary single-use plastics*. Emory is demonstrating 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 advance the waste goals outlined in Emory's Sustainability Vision and promote a zero-waste lifestyle. The ZWAs program trains students, faculty, and staff to serve as peer educators to raise awareness and educate the community about proper waste management and reduction. 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.

Vision: To form a team of motivated 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 environmental justice and a culture at Emory that prioritizes reducing waste and diverting it from landfills affecting adjacent communities. ZWAs will be vital in communicating proper waste sorting across campus, as well as relaying questions to the Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

Goals:

- Train Zero Waste Ambassadors to serve as a resource for the campus community
- Encourage behavioral change through waste management education
- Increase understanding of and engagement in zero waste practices
- Conduct outreach across all facets of the Emory enterprise
- Identify campus decision-makers and support their efforts to reduce and divert waste
- Reestablish confidence in Emory's composting systems by communicating the effectiveness of Goodr, the university's new waste management partner
- Communicate the proper disposal of PPE and other coronavirus-related disposables

Expectations:

The Zero Waste Ambassador team will:

- Complete an initial training session with the Office of Sustainability Initiatives (OSI)
- Review the latest ZWA updates posted on OSI's website and circulated through the OSI and ZWA newsletters
- Participate in zero landfill waste events, such as Homecoming, Commencement, and orientation
- Lead at least one virtual or in-person outreach campaign or event. Outreach ideas include, but are not limited to:
 - Co-leading a "trash talk" to answer waste reduction and sorting questions
 - Leading a waste training session for your student group, department, residence hall, lab, etc. with the support of the OSI staff as requested
 - Contributing to a blog post on the OSI website
 - Contributing to social media posts about zero waste
 - Integrating zero waste information into existing communication channels from your network
 - Sharing waste management strategies for students living off-campus
 - Creating your own campaigns that OSI can support!
- Listen to community feedback and questions regarding waste and report back to OSI when you need more information

[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.