



**UL** **Planning for Zero Waste**

As a Part of Sustainability Initiatives

- On line search
- Limited empirical research
- Eleven hits on zero waste universities
  - California Universities mandated 2020
- Goal – 90% or greater waste diversion
- Driven by policy, plan or strategy

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**UL** **What Are Best Practices?**


- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Waste audit
- E-cycling
- Ink jet recycling
- Composting
- Swap/X-change
- Don't throw it away
- EPP
- Reduce Disposables
- Campus engagement
- Reduce junk mail
- Surplus Sale
- Reusable containers
- Green Game Day
- Paint Reuse
- Low-flow fixtures
- Water filters
- Dining/Catering
- Campus Harvest
- CSA
- LEED Buildings
- Divert C&D
- Divert Batteries
- Packaging reduction
- Paperless systems
- Think before you ink (duplex)
- Print Sharing

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**UL** **Research Question**

How do you get to zero waste?


- How can UofL improve:
  - Its waste reduction initiatives?
  - Its waste stream to zero waste?
- For custodians
  - How would you improve the system (if you could change it)?
  - What problems do you see?
  - How do you overcome them?

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**UL** **Case Study Interviews**

Conducted while employees worked

- Interviewed 5 people
- Informal, face-to-face
- Semi-structured
- Digitally recorded & transcribed
- Confidential – no identifying info

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**UL** **Dominant Themes**

Emerged from interviews

- Need education & training
- Infrastructure should be obvious
- Need consistent messaging/branding
- Handling issues for custodians
- Organizational Culture helps/hinders

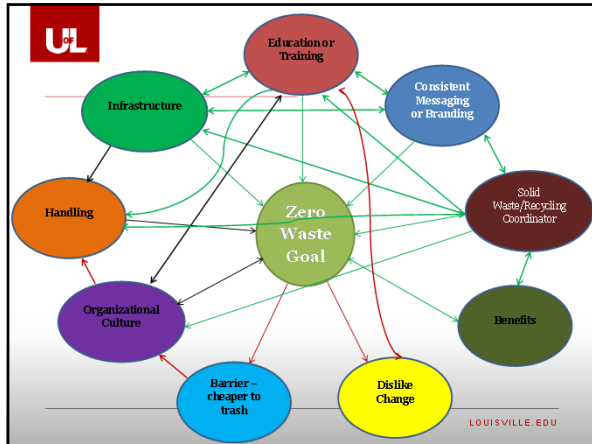
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**UL** **Secondary Themes**

Emerged from interviews

- Need Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator
- Understand benefits of zero waste
- Some dislike change
- Cheaper to trash

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**UL** **What is the Plan?**  
 Phase II Recycling/Solid Waste Reduction Committee

- Draft plan out for comment
- Zero waste goal 2020
  - 90%+ diversion rate
- Draft Zero Waste Policy included
- Shows where UofL is
- Strategic initiatives to meet goal

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**UL** **Why Have a Policy?**

- Underpins principals and values
- Details goals & objectives
- Strategies to achieve objectives
- Details
  - Specific actions
  - Desired outcomes
- Frequency of Review

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**UL** **Strategic Initiatives**  
 How Do We Get to Zero Waste

1. Conduct comprehensive waste audit
2. Enact zero waste policy
3. Expand reuse and recycling
4. Expand composting
5. Add Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator
6. Consistent messaging, branding, infrastructure
7. Expand campus engagement

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**UL** **Education vs. Behavior Change**  
 How are they different?


- Awareness is a part
- Must ask people – be sustainable:
  - At work
  - At school, and
  - At home
- Change behavior incrementally
  - Add one or two new habits

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**UL** **Communications & Outreach**


- Orientation sessions
- Lunch & Learn sessions
- Professional Development
- Green Guide for Students, Faculty and Staff
- Green Office Program
- Sustainability Scholars Roundtable (applied research)


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 **Additional Steps**

Increase what we are doing as well as:


- Event waste diversion
- Green Game Days
- Packaging reduction
- Think before you ink – DUPLEX
- Paperless Systems
- Bike (Re)cycling
- Map out discard locations



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 **Value of the Research**

In higher education


- Sustainability is a hot topic
- Zero waste relatively new phenomenon
- Limitations (small sample)
- Future research opportunities
  - Expand UofL wide
  - Research with aspirational benchmarks
    - Multiple cases & sources of evidence
  - Add Athletics

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 **Questions?** 

Thoughts or comments?

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- Will share draft plan and slides if you drop me off a card

  
Partnership for a Green City  
Louisville

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