

Ryan Harrop
Rydelaney
rdh267@nau.edu
Northern Arizona University

Make a list of wasteful practices you notice at your school and outline solutions to these problems. Think about the cafeteria or dining hall, classrooms, sporting events, and more.

Dining Services:

- Food Waste (solutions: [Composting](#), which is something that NAU actually already does)
- Napkins (solutions: instead of offering napkins freely, keep them behind the counter so people have to ask for them, or have water efficient hand washing stations in the major dining centers on campus)
- Plastic Containers
 - Starbucks cups (solutions: while our university already does [Straw Free Flagstaff](#), I think offering a to-go cup library would be very cool. Maybe using cups that are all the same color so NAU can keep track of them)
 - Dutch Bros cups and straws (solutions: reach out to Dutch Bros and ask them to be straw free, ask them to give a higher incentive for bringing your own cup)
- Receipts (solutions: go to a system that offers online receipts or an option for no receipts, encourage employees to ask if customer wants a copy of the receipt before just giving them one)

Residential Halls

- Poster advertising (solutions: ask NAU to take the initiative to do paperless advertising and make more use of online advertising platforms (like a wall for online posters) and TVs throughout campus to advertise)
- Move-in / Move-out (solutions: our university offers donations bins when we move out to drop things off that would otherwise be thrown away in the move out process. These donations are then given to a local goodwill)
- Laundry soap/dryer sheets

Random

- Prochow movies (solutions: encourage students to bring their own bowls and cups for popcorn and drinks, offer reusable containers for students to use during the movie and return afterwards)
- Sprinkler system (solutions: ask for them to be turned on less (especially when it is already raining outside) and build more rain gardens/local plant habitats on campus which are water conservation friendly)

Next, choose one issue that you listed above and design an action plan for reducing this waste at your particular school. Need inspiration: consider recycling, composting, reusables, water, to name but a few starting points. Use this toolkit designed to help students reduce waste on campus from the Post Landfill Action Network as a resource. Answer the following questions:

What steps would you need to take to implement this project?

To implement the water conservation from our university sprinkler system, I would first reach out to maintenance to inquire about the sprinkler schedule and how much water is being used to support the grass/plants. Then, I would ask the ecology students to help design rain gardens and pollinator habitats on campus. Finally, I would gather funding from Green NAU and volunteers from the campus population to plant the ne gardens and raise awareness of water consumption spent on sprinklers on campus.

Who would you need to involve in the process?

I would need to involve groundskeeping/maintenance for the university, the Green NAU organization, ecology students, volunteers, and possibly the university president.

What logistical details would you need to figure out?

Logistical details would include data on the water usage for campus irrigation, funding requests from Green NAU, and gathering a solid plan from ecology students that is attractive to the university president for replanting pollinator habitats.

What are some potential barriers you might face?

Green NAU may say no to funding this project. The groundskeeping may say no to replanting garden beds, or maintenance may be unwilling/prohibited from limiting the irrigation to the grass on campus.

Is this project something you would consider implementing on campus?

Absolutely, I would consider implementing this! I would like to create a more detailed plan and draft a project proposal for Green NAU.