



# Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

## University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council

**April 5th, 2015**

**82LCB11 Creating Solutions, Not Waste**

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## Creating Solutions, Not Waste 2015

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### Bill History

In 2010, student government leaders collaborated with UMC and Environmental Center personnel on a groundbreaking bill, designing a foundation for the CUSG cost centers to lead the campus in "zero-waste" operations (zero-waste meaning 90% waste diversion). This bill has, for the last 5 years, set directives for the CUSG when implementing zero-waste improvements. With the assistance of dedicated UMC and Environmental professionals, and their respective student allies, the CUSG-associated community has pioneered real improvements toward waste reduction and diversion, setting standards for other campus entities to follow along the way.

72 LCB 15 has provided guidance in our zero-waste efforts thus far, most recently leading to the implementation of 80 LCB 22, the ambitious Reusable Catering Bill. With a combined diversion rate of 49% from July 2013- June 2014, our campaign to zero-waste cost-centers needs to be revitalized with new partnerships, new programs, and new ideas. In anticipation of the need for a multi-stage campaign, 72 LCB 15 directs CUSG to formally request participation from all cost centers in our planning process. This year, CUSG's Sustainability Think Tank, a student innovation lab and legislative writing team, has been tasked with developing legislation implementing programs directed at our zero-waste efforts. This bill reaffirms CUSG zero-waste

goals, while prescribing a variety of partnerships and programs seeking to strengthen our approach to achieving a zero-waste community. In addition, this bill seeks to adapt to the changing political conditions by prescribing a new partnership with Housing and Dining Services in light of their recent agreement to take control of UMC Food Services from the UMC, voted upon by the UMC Board on April 21.

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### Bill Summary

Meeting the university's goals of 90% waste diversion is crucial to upholding the University of Colorado Boulder's reputation as a national leader in sustainability. Although CU established the first national recycling program and has since added composting bins throughout the UMC, we have not met recent sustainability-related goals, including those established both by CUSG and the campus administration.

This bill establishes seven areas of focus for the 2015 CUSG campaign, "Creating Solutions, Not Waste." These areas include a student-run auditing pathway for waste diversion for the cost centers, a unified zero-waste marketing message across the cost centers, bin parity within the UMC and Rec Center, a surcharge on the sale of bottle water in the UMC to fund further sustainable initiatives, a plan to reduce vendor waste in the UMC, a partnership with the Student Worker Alliance Program (SWAP) to train employees of the UMC and the Rec Center on proper waste diversion, and food rescue in the Alfred Packard Grill. Furthermore, this bill provides a framework for these focuses including the change of policy, the people responsible to execute the new policy, and a timeline. In many instances, the timeline for these projects extend beyond 2015.

This bill seeks to work with Housing and Dining on their new Memorandum of Understanding with CUSG over the transfer of control of UMC Food Services from the latter to the former. CUSG will work with Housing and Dining to incorporate sustainability measures on a larger campus scale, directed at improving our Dining Services STARS rating.

In this bill, the following terms are defined by:

**Cost center** – Cost centers are student fee funded centers and services at the University of Colorado. Cost centers include the University Memorial Center (UMC) and the Rec Center.

**Zero-waste** – The practice of diverting 90% or more of all waste from the landfill, through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and upcycling.

**Bin parity** – For every trash bin, there is an equally accessible recycling and composting bin.

**UMC vendor** – Licensed third-party vendors in the UMC.

**Student Worker Alliance Program (SWAP)** – A student group that trains CU students to teach English to entry-level and immigrant employees on the CU campus, who speak very little to no English, and are therefore isolated on a dominantly English-speaking campus. SWAP also offers free resources for CU workers, such as English classes, literacy tutoring, and translation services.

**Food waste** – All perishable and prepared food that is not consumed whether it goes unserved or uneaten.

**Food rescue** – Rescuing prepared meals that are unserved before the parish by bringing them to areas of need, including soup kitchens.

**Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act of 1996** – A federal law to protect food donors against liability, except in cases of gross negligence. This bill was meant to encourage food donation.

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**Whereas**, the Sustainability Think Tank was formed to give a legislative voice to students regarding social eco-justice and environmental issues on campus through authoring progressive policy.

**Whereas**, 72LCB15 mandated 90% waste diversion by 2015.

**Whereas**, the waste diversion rate of CUSG cost centers is 49%. Furthermore, the university as a whole, scored a 4.34 out of 10.00 in the “Waste” category of the Sustainable Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) for 2014. This included a subscore of 1.31 out of 3.00 in waste diversion.

**Whereas**, when bins for regular waste, recycling, and compost are given equal prominence at a given location, then people are more likely to dispose of their waste in the correct bins (Hobson, 2006). Currently, the bin distribution in sections of the UMC, Rec Center, and other cost centers is unequal. For example, in the UMC west dining hall the compost bins are smaller and less centrally located than the other types of waste bins.

**Whereas**, creating better bin parity in these locations is a low-cost method of furthering CU’s goal of reducing the amount of waste the university produces.

**Whereas**, about 28% of waste from businesses and vendors is diverted, as opposed to more than 50% diverted by the average person in their home (Boulder Daily, 2015). CUSG wants to match this initiative in collaboration with our vendors here in the UMC.

**Whereas**, a streamlined and cohesive sustainability plan is needed to reach our campus goals for waste diversion.

**Whereas**, the University of Colorado Campus Master Plan set a goal of achieving 90% waste diversion by 2020. CUSG believes that this goal can be attained in its cost centers by the same year.

**Whereas**, the University of Colorado scored a 2.31 out of 7.00 on the “Dining Services” category in STARS for 2014. This included a 1.31 out of 4.00 for food and beverage purchasing and 1.00 out of 3.00 for low impact dining.

**Whereas**, CUSG has worked with CU Legal Counsel and Boulder Food Rescue to make sure that appropriate steps set forth by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act are taken regarding food waste from the UMC.

**Whereas**, the University of Colorado has an exclusive contract for beverage sales with PepsiCo, Inc. Yet, CUSG maintains the right to establish excise fees on non-vending machine

beverages within its cost centers.

**Whereas**, disposable plastic water bottles have unnecessary environmental impacts when compared with tap water. Bottled water is up to 2,000 times more energy-intensive than tap water, resulting in serious implications for the climate (Gleick & Cooley, 2009). Furthermore, bottled water creates plastic waste that is better refused than recycled.

**Whereas**, Legislative Council continues its support to reduce the sale of bottled water in its cost centers. Legislative Council has previously supported such efforts in 77LCR01 and 81LCR01.

**Whereas**, CUSG is firmly committed to enhancing its sustainable practices and reducing its environmental footprint. We acknowledge that progress cannot be achieved unless there cooperation and unity between CUSG's many arms, including the legislative and executive branches and its cost centers.

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Government, that:**

### **Section 1: Objectives**

1. The CUSG Director of Sustainability, in conjunction with the key stakeholders of this bill (University Memorial Center, Environmental Center, Recreation Center) and a Tri-Executive shall be in charge of organizing and implementing the following waste diversion plan.
2. This bill shall result in the Sustainability Think Tank forming two sub-committees: Waste Monitoring & Research Coalition and Sustainability Marketing Coalition.
3. The Sustainability Think Tank requests that each Cost Center drafts a plan to increase diversion rates by 10% each year, with the expectation that each individual entity under CUSG jurisdiction contributes a minimum of 5% improvement.
4. CUSG and its associated cost centers shall continue to perform as campus leaders in zero-waste achievement.

### **Section 2: Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition**

1. The Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition shall be formed, as a sub-committee of the Sustainability Think Tank.
  - a. The subcommittee is charged with monitoring the cost centers' diversion rate and generating research directed at understanding the infrastructural and behavioral obstacles for achieving zero-waste.
  - b. The subcommittee also is charged with the responsibility of zero-waste accountability and enforcement.
2. The Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition shall be composed of the CUSG Director of Sustainability, a representative from the Sustainability Think Tank, the Recreation Center Building Services Manager, the Environmental Center Recycling Director, the UMC Associate Director of Operations and Services, a representative from UMC Food Service, a representative from CUSG Legislative Council, a representative from the UMC Board, and one (1) Tri-Executive.
  - a. The Coalition requests the participation of the Facilities Management

- Environmental Operations Manager and the Facilities Management Solid Waste Manager in monitoring and reporting on the cost center diversion rate.
- b. A voting member from the Sustainability Think Tank and the Director of Sustainability shall serve as co-chairs for the team.
    - i. The co-chairs are tasked with scheduling meetings, managing correspondence, engaging and informing sub-committee members, and achieving the sub-committees charges.
  3. The sub-committee shall generate the cost center diversion rates once per year on November 1st, and will compile these statistics in order to identify trends.
    - a. The data shall be published on the CUSG website and through CUSG social media accounts. Further, this data shall be presented to the Environmental Center and the UMC.
  4. The sub-committee shall create, refine, enact, and analyze one research project per semester.
    - a. The research project shall be related to zero-waste achievement at the costs centers, including material, behavioral, social, or etc. projects. The Waste Monitoring and Research Team is encouraged to create research in conjunction with promotion designed by the Sustainable Marketing Coalition.
  5. The sub-committee is in charge of vendor enforcement.
  6. While evaluation will be done on a rolling basis throughout the existence of the Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition, specific review shall be done in Spring 2017 in order to assess the effectiveness of the coalition thus far. At this time, the coalition shall seek to reaffirm its role by drafting legislation lengthening its tenure and/or altering its objectives. In the instance that this coalition is deemed ineffective or unnecessary, the co-chairs can seek to terminate this collaboration instead, while providing support for this decision in regards to our current zero-waste objectives.

### **Section 3: Sustainability Marketing Coalition**

1. The Sustainability Marketing Coalition shall be formed, as a sub-committee of the Sustainability Think Tank.
  - a. The subcommittee is charged with the creation of a common marketing theme with the goal of achieving CUSG zero-waste goals.
    - i. This can include any advertising or outreach in the UMC regarding reuse, recycling, compost, food savings, or material conservation of any type.
    - ii. Existing campus standards or themes related to Zero Waste Marketing and signage will be adapted as necessary
2. The Sustainability Marketing Coalition is composed of the Director of Sustainability, one representative from the Sustainability Think Tank, the Environmental Center Recycling Director, a student from the Environmental Center Recycling Outreach Team, the CUSG Multimedia Director, a staff person from the UMC, a representative from CUSG Legislative Council, a representative from the UMC Board, and the Recreation Center Assistant Director of Marketing and External Relations.
  - a. A voting member from the Sustainability Think Tank and the Director of Sustainability shall serve as the co-chairs for the coalition.
    - i. The co-chairs shall be tasked with scheduling meetings, managing correspondence, engaging and informing sub-committee members, and achieving the sub-committees charges.

3. The coalition shall follow a two-year structure:
  - a. Design Planning & Creation - Fall 2015
    - i. A comprehensive marketing plan shall be created, including consistent slogan, theme, and design, while allowing coalition representatives freedom to incorporate elements unique to their respective objectives.
    - ii. This theme shall be formed by unanimous approval by representatives of the coalition.
    - iii. The coalition shall seek to incorporate this theme into all promotions at cost centers regarding zero-waste.
  - b. Design Implementation & Expansion - 2016
    - i. Promotions designed by the coalition shall be implemented into the UMC and Recreation Center on a tangible level.
    - ii. The effectiveness of these promotional campaign shall be evaluated with regards to the apparent effectiveness of the promotions and the changing conditions of the cost-center community. The campaigns can be produced and old campaigns can be modified at the discretion of the coalition.
  - c. Design Evaluation - Spring 2017
    - i. While evaluation shall be done on a rolling basis throughout the existence of the Sustainability Marketing Coalition, specific review shall be done in Spring 2017 in order to assess the effectiveness of the coalition thus far.
    - ii. At this time, the coalition shall seek to reaffirms its role by drafting legislation lengthening its tenure and/or altering its objectives. In the instance that this coalition is deemed ineffective or unnecessary, the co-chairs can seek to terminate this collaboration instead, while providing support for this decision in regards to our current zero-waste objectives.

#### **Section 4: Bin Parity**

1. Student groups funded under SGFB shall be required to sort their own recycling and composting.
  - a. Funds originally earmarked under 77LCB05 shall be applied to providing bins for the student group offices.
  - b. The UMC Space Allocation shall be responsible for informing student groups with offices of this change.
2. Remaining funds shall be applied in Spring 2015 to changes agreed upon by the Director of Sustainability, the Environmental Center Recycling Director, and the Recreation Center Building Services Manager.
3. Achievement of bin parity shall be managed by the Director of UMC Food Services, the UMC Associate Director of Operations and Services, the Recreation Center Building Services Manager, the Environmental Center Recycling Director, the CUSG Director of Sustainability, and one voting member from the Sustainability Think Tank.

#### **Section 5: Bottled Water Surcharge and Sustainability Fund**

1. Starting July 1, 2015, bottled water sold at retail locations in the UMC shall carry a \$0.50 excise surcharge.

2. Advertisements that notify consumers of the excise surcharge and the presence of water bottle fill stations in the UMC shall be placed near the bottled water in the retail locations as well as at the cash registers.
3. The money generated from this excise surcharge shall go into a fund managed by CUSG Director of Finance and Director of Sustainability.
  - a. The fund shall be named the Sustainability Innovation and Improvement Program (SIIP).
  - b. Each year, one-half of the fund shall be allocated to ongoing sustainability improvements to the UMC as decided upon by the Tri-Executives, the Director of Sustainability, and the Executive Director of the UMC.
  - c. Each year, one-half of the fund shall be allocated to innovative solutions for waste diversion to be implemented by the Sustainability Think Tank.
    - i. The co-chairs of the Sustainability Think Tank shall present and receive approval of any plan it has to use monies from the Sustainability Innovation and Improvement Program to the Tri-Executives at least two (2) weeks before any expenditures.
    - ii. If plans to use the fund include actions with or within cost centers, the co-chairs of the Sustainability Think Tank shall present and receive approval of the plan from the Directors of the appropriate cost centers at least two (2) weeks before any expenditures.
4. At the end of each fiscal year, the amount and impact of the excise fee and fund shall be assessed by the Director of Sustainability in conjunction with UMC Food Services.
  - a. Any desired changes to the fund shall first be proposed to the Sustainability Think Tank which must be passed unanimously. Changes to the fund, after having been approved by the Sustainability Think Tank, shall be proposed to the Legislative Council in the form of a bill.
  - b. Any desired change(s) to the fee shall be proposed to the Legislative Council by the first meeting of September in the form of a bill.
5. In the spring and summer of 2016, the Director of Sustainability shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis of applying a similar excise fee on soda beverages sold at non-vending machine locations within the UMC.
6. Student Group Funding Board shall not fund any request for bottled water. This change will be applied to the SGFB bylaws.

## **Section 6: Vendor Waste**

1. All vendors in the UMC shall be mandated to separate their own waste into proper bins for landfill, recycling, and compost. Audits shall be performed periodically on vendor waste to assure that the vendors are separating the waste correctly, as dictated in Section 2.5 of this article. Once a year, over a 3 day period, the Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition shall collect the vendor waste to evaluate diversion rates. The vendor with the highest diversion rate shall receive an award and recognition for their effort, while vendors with diversion rates below diversion rate objectives shall receive contact and assistance in their efforts to improve.
2. All vendors in the UMC must serve their products on reusable, compostable or recyclable packaging (reusable packaging preferred). New vendors will have this provision listed as part of their vendor contract with the UMC. Existing vendors will have a 6 month time period to convert their packaging to be compostable or recyclable. The

Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition, in coordination with the Environmental Center Recycling Director, must approve any packaging choices and changes.

3. Enforcement of vendors sorting their own waste and using the proper zero-waste packaging shall be enacted by the Sustainability Think Tank and the Waste Monitoring and Research Coalition.
4. The coalitions provided for through this bill will develop and execute a rating system for the UMC Vendors. Promotions from this rating system will be placed in the front service area of the respective vendors.

### **Section 7: Staff Training**

1. A representative from the Sustainability Think Tank shall collaborate with members from SWAP to create effective multilingual zero-waste trainings for UMC and Recreation Center staff members.
  - a. The trainings shall begin Fall Semester 2015 and will continue once per semester for both the UMC and Recreation Center staff forces.
  - b. The CUSG Sustainability Think Tank and SWAP leadership shall monitor the trainings for evaluation and reserve the right to alter or terminate the partnership.
    - i. In the event of a partnership termination, the Sustainability Think Tank shall look for another student group to continue training.
    - ii. If no student group is identified within a semester of the termination, the members of the Sustainability Think Tank shall conduct the staff trainings themselves.
  - c. Feedback shall be provided to SWAP and the Sustainability Think Tank by representatives from the UMC and the Recreation Center.

### **Section 8: Food Waste Donation Program**

1. The following program seeks to create a community relationship leading to an increase in food donations provided by the campus for those in needs, in compliance with health and safety standards.
2. Starting in Summer 2015, the CUSG Director of Sustainability and UMC Food Service shall work to develop a plan to divert food waste by partnering to create an approved on-campus food donation program. This program shall utilize unsellable food leftovers to nonprofits in the UMC.
3. Food eligible for donation shall include prepared food that is leftover and cannot be sold, including food that is in self-serve lines in heated trays, as well as leftover food from catered events.
4. CUSG Director of Sustainability and UMC Food Service shall meet with Legal Counsel and Risk Management in Summer 2015 to determine the correct structure of the program.
5. There shall be the potential for wider campus expansion pending favorable evaluations at the end of Spring Semester 2016, and inclusion of Boulder Food Rescue and other on-campus businesses' organizational capacities to implement similar food donation programs.

### **Section 9: Trayless Dining**



1. The UMC Alfred Packer Grill will no longer use plastic trays in their Dining Operations.
2. The CUSG Sustainability Think Tank will work to spread this policy to Housing and Dining Services.

### **Section 10: LeanPath Implementation**

1. The CUSG Director of Sustainability will work with UMC Food Services to use the \$16,000 awarded through the Environmental Board SCU Grant Fund to implement LeanPath360 technology into Alfred Packard Grill food preparation.
2. The CUSG Sustainability Think Tank will work with Housing and Dining to consider the benefits of implementing LeanPath on a larger campus scale.

### **Section 11: UMC Food Services Transfer**

1. Representatives from the CUSG Sustainability Think Tank will be engaged in future collaborative efforts between CUSG, Housing and Dining, and Administration to draft a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the transfer of UMC Food Services to Housing and Dining.
2. The CUSG Director of Sustainability will be tasked with representing student sustainability concerns in this collaborative process.
3. The CUSG Director of Sustainability will be responsible for advocating for the continued incorporation of the programs and practices prescribed under this bill, and other programs and practices advocated for by the Sustainability Think Tank. In this advocacy, the Think Tank will seek to maximize our Dining Services STARS rating.

### **Section 12: Passage and distribution**

1. The bill shall take effect upon final passage in Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives and the Legislative Council President or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.
2. Upon final passage of this bill, it shall be distributed to all CUSG Cost Centers and the media.

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**Vote Count**

<b>4/2/2015</b>	<b>Approved on First Reading</b>	<b>Acclamation</b>
<b>4/9/2015</b>	<b>Approved on Second Reading</b>	<b>Acclamation</b>

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