

Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

Thank you for submitting a Progress Report for your Campus Sustainability Fund grant! We look forward to hearing about the advancements of your project.

Progress Reports are due the first week of every March, May, August, and December for the duration of the project. This link will open at the start of the week. Progress Report due dates for 2022: May 6th at 5PM and August 5th at 5PM.

Please be aware of the responses minimums and maximums for each question. While this form does not enforce our minimums, we strongly encourage following them. Should we feel that not sufficient information is provided, the Committee might request a new submission.

Should your project not yet have progress to report in some areas, you may type "No progress or updates to report." However, this will be vetted by Committee Members. If you have no progress to report, that should be made evident in meetings with the Committee Member who is your direct contact.

Should your project already be completed, please note in your responses to "Next Steps" and "Progress Support" that neither questions are applicable considering your project's timeline.

Uploading photos is required for Progress Reports - if you have no photos to share because your project has not yet begun, please omit.

Email *

esharajadhyaksha@email.arizona.edu

Project Manager Name *

Who is submitting this Progress Report?

Esha Rajadhyaksha

Project Name *

Mask Recycling Project

Project Subaccount Number *

2657607

Project Summary Snapshot *

Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application. Responses are limited to 800 characters (~60-100 words).

Taking both sustainability and public health head-on, UA's new mask recycling initiative tackles diverting the waste caused by disposable masks while also educating the student body on the importance of masking during COVID-19. By partnering with Terracycle, UA housing now offers the almost 8,000 on-campus students the ability to properly recycle their disposable masks at home by supplying mask recycling bins in all of housing and, with the help of UA Housing Staff, is spreading word of the effectiveness and importance of wearing surgical masks during a pandemic.

Requested Metrics *

Please add your project's metrics and their most recent number or response here.

Requested Metrics:

of people trained on mask recycling protocol: 10 people trained total, 8 GRAs and 2 PMs.

of weeks it took for the box to fill to this point: 7 weeks

estimate of masks inside box: 50+

of people in core project team involved in planning and execution of project: Samantha Wetherell (primary project manager and student) and Esha Rajadhyaksha (secondary project manager and student), Bryce Wilson (CD), Jill Burchell (head of sustainability in housing, Emily Hayworth (head of fund), Melissa Hall (fiscal officer)

Project Accomplishments *

Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Responses must be 500 characters at minimum and no longer than 2,000 characters, spaces included.

Examples of accomplishments could include: Held 4 public meetings totaling 130 attendees; Transitioned 300 square feet of dirt into usable garden space and signed on 14 community garden volunteers. Other examples of accomplishments could include sharing a confirmed schedule of events, the connections/contacts that have been established, or providing an update on an FM quote.

Within this summer, we were able to accomplish training of a staff of over 10 people on proper mask recycling protocol and purchase and place our box within the graduate dorm, La Aldea. We were also able to create and post promotional and informational materials regarding the program around La Aldea, updating and improving these materials to fit the needs of the dorm throughout the program. Furthermore, we were able to consistently keep track of masks by creating a system for tracking the growth and progress of mask recycling, and saw counts like 20 masks collected during our check in at 3 weeks and saw 50 masks collected at our 7th week followup. From that, we saw an average of 7.1 masks per week for the 7 weeks that the box was placed at La Aldea.

Next Steps *

Please detail the next steps for your project, numbering each step. (ie, 1. Connect with X Department to collaborate on the event, 2. Contact the catering options to confirm pricing, 3. Interview candidates for internship). If your project is completed, you can note "Project is Completed." Responses must be 500 characters at minimum and no longer than 2,000 characters, spaces included.

1. Contact the UofA Rec's liaison for the Terracycling program to learn about possible challenges the Rec faced with Terracycling and to identify solutions to those challenges
2. Coordinate a meeting with La Aldea CD, Diamond, to discuss with her possible improvements to program and/or any special modifications needed for La Aldea
3. Coordinate meeting with Jill Burchell about expansion of program during the Fall Semester to further housing
4. Purchase further mask recycling boxes
5. Create further informational materials

Challenges Faced *

Please identify and describe any obstacles/roadblocks you or your team have experienced, and detail how you've managed them/ will manage them. Should your project already be completed, please note what challenges you faced and what you would do differently. Responses must be 500 characters at minimum and no longer than 2,000 characters, spaces included.

Initially, our main obstacle was distinguishing our mask recycling box from a normal recycling box. To resolve this issue, we put up more posters to specify what type of masks could be recycled. We also faced the issue of people recycling re-usable masks rather than recycling disposable masks. We put up several detailed posters to further elaborate on what qualifies as a disposable and recyclable mask versus a reusable one, and attempted to remove some of the reusable masks from the bin as well. Since this, we have seen a decrease in disposal of reusable masks in the bin, indicating the success of these materials.

On our most recent check-up of the boxes, we determined that placing a normal recycling bin next to the Terracycling box would decrease the percentage of non-recyclable masks and other goods, as we believe it would disincentive people by making it more convenient to recycle their non-mask recyclables.

Project Support *

Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project? Responses must be 500 characters at minimum and no longer than 2,000 characters, spaces included.

We believe that the Campus Sustainability Fund could help support us by assisting us in promotion of our program, specifically of information around mask recycling and how to do it. By doing so, we believe that this would not only bring more attention to our boxes, but also assist us in proper use of our boxes. Furthermore, we also would appreciate the Campus Sustainability Fund's continued assistance throughout our expansion in housing, with occasional check-ins and communication from the Campus Sustainability Fund.

Photos

Please upload or provide link (below) to relevant photos. Providing photos to your project is required. Please include event photos, any and all relevant photos, as well as flyers or advertisements.

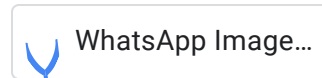
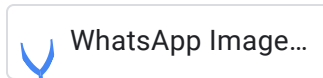
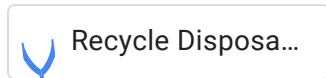
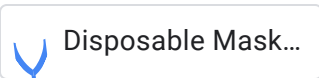


Photo Link

Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos. Please include event photos, any and all relevant photos, as well as flyers or advertisements.

Media/Links

Please include links to any media coverage or events information (e.g. news, social media, websites, interviews, etc.)

This form was created inside of University of Arizona.

Google Forms