

# Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

## Email:

swetherell@arizona.edu

## Project Manager Name:

who is submitting this project?

Samantha Wetherell

## Project Name:

Housing Mask Recycling Project

## Project Subaccount Number:

2657607

## Project Summary Snapshot:

Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application.

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 report your project's metrics and their most recent number or response in a list format.

Over the course of this project, we were able to implement two medium recycling boxes in La Aldea and Honors Village. In Honors Village we were able to successfully fill the medium recycling box which we sent off to Terracycle. In La Aldea we were able to acquire around 100 masks over four months time.

## **Project Accomplishments :**

Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. 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, etc.

Over the summer, we were able to train resident assistants and desk assistants in La Aldea and Honors Village on how to monitor mask recycling boxes. We also were able created mask recycling informational materials, with over 4 different types of informational and promotional materials. We also were able to purchase two boxes, filled one box, and made contact with Housing Sustainability Head. Overall, this project was able to help recapture hundreds of masks and have them recycled through the Terracycle Mask Recycling Program.

## **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).

As we determined that this project is not feasible in long term, we have decide that there will be no need for next steps. Over this last semester, due to several roadblocks, we were unable to accomplish what we had set out to due with repurposing our mas recycling project into other forms of recycling. Thus, we have come to the conclusion, that at the end of this semester we will be entirely ceasing this project and returning all leftover funds from our subaccount to the Campus Sustainability Fund.

## **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.

Over the course of this project, we unfortunately faced many different challenges. Firstly, members of our team did not perform work as asked. Secondly, while we were encouraged to do our project by the Community Directors of dorms, the Housing Sustainability Office took issue with our project, not thinking any recycling feasible to be done without contamination. Thirdly, there was inconsistent and often contradicting communication from Housing about the possibility of the implementation of our project. Lastly, we did have some issues regarding improper recycling, which we were able to resolve through the use of

posters that explained the difference between disposable and non-disposable masks. If I were to redo the project, I would have contacted the Housing Sustainability Office first rather than after the Communication Directors. I also would have put force a mechanism to ensure accountability among team members.

## **Project Support:**

Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project?

NA

## **Photo Upload:**

Please upload or provide links (below) to relevant photos.

**\* Mask\_Recycling\_Poject\_Photo\_2.jpg**

**[[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/236/Mask\\_Recycling\\_Poject\\_Photo\\_2.jpg](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/236/Mask_Recycling_Poject_Photo_2.jpg)**

**] \* Mask\_Recycling\_Poject\_Photo\_3.jpg**

**[[https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf\\_progress\\_report/236/Mask\\_Recycling\\_Poject\\_Photo\\_3.jpg](https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/236/Mask_Recycling_Poject_Photo_3.jpg)**

**] Photo Link {Empty}**

## **Photo Link:**

Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos.

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## **Media/Links:**

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

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