

Y University of Delaware Graduate Student Government
SR-1920-09

Sponsors: Senator Elizabeth Davis (Earth Sciences, Co-Chair Sustainability Committee), Senator Thomas Benson (Political Science & International Relations), Senator Julie Giannino (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

A RESOLUTION in Favor of Purchasing and Affixing Recycling Infographics to Recycling Receptacles
Campus-wide

WHEREAS the University of Delaware (“the University”) reports its sustainability initiatives to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking and Ranking System (AASHE STARS) and receives a sustainability score, comparing the University to other US institutions; and

WHEREAS recycling initiatives are important for increasing campus-wide recycling rates¹ to lessen our environmental impact and to improve our AASHE STARS score; and

WHEREAS the University ranked 125th out of 163 colleges & universities in the 2019 RecycleMania competition, recycling 22.9% of total waste²; and

WHEREAS the most recent publicized rate of single stream recycling, from 2017, for UD is 25%³; and

WHEREAS providing infographics to define appropriate recyclable materials is an effective means of increasing recycling rates⁴; and

WHEREAS an infographic depicting text and images would clearly outline materials suitable for single-stream recycling as determined by the Delaware Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances; and

WHEREAS a recent study conducted by the University of Toronto found that using recycling labels the combination of images and text increased the recycling rate by 164%⁵; and

WHEREAS the Sustainability Committee intends to fund this project via the UD Green Grants program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government calls for the placement of recycling infographics on all UD recycling receptacles.

¹ <https://sites.udel.edu/sustainability/waste/>

² <https://recyclemania.org/scoreboard/past-results/>

³ University of Delaware, *Waste*, n.d. <https://sites.udel.edu/sustainability/waste/>

⁴ Szaky et al., 2004 <https://www.packagingdigest.com/sustainable-packaging/new-labeling-takes-confusion-out-recycling140702>

⁵ <https://cleanriver.com/recycling-labels-campus-waste-diversion/>