

Zero Waste Buildings Project Summary: UC Berkeley ASUC Student Union Buildings

By: Sabina Mahavni and Celine Yang, ASUC Student Union Green Team Associates

Introduction

The ASUC Student Union Green Team's goal is to ensure that the ASUC Student Union buildings, consisting of the MLK Student Union building and Eshleman Hall, have comprehensive waste systems in accordance with the university's system-wide goal of Zero Waste by 2020 and Beyond. Our hope is that improving such infrastructure will not only increase diversion rates, but educate the UC Berkeley community and the public on waste, which will contribute to a campus culture shift to sustainability.

In 2019, the ASUC Student Union Green Team wrote an [in-depth report](#) in which we provide an overview and analysis of the buildings' current waste infrastructure. Based on our findings, we found that further development in bin receptacle design, placement, signage, and liners must be addressed promptly in order for the ASUC Student Union buildings to comply with the system-wide goal of Zero Waste by 2020 and Beyond. We concluded our report with our recommendations for a revised bin infrastructure and outlined our next steps for a plan of action.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Green Team worked with a variety of key campus zero waste stakeholders to implement key recommendations and develop a shared zero waste vision. Partnerships with Cal Zero Waste and the Facilities Director were instrumental to the successful streamlining of waste bins. In addition to streamlining the waste bins, the Green Team worked with the ASUC Student Union Marketing Team to develop and print new, comprehensive bin signage. The Green Team is now in the process of developing and implementing zero waste education initiatives.



Comprehensive, new bin signage for bins in the ASUC Student Union Buildings