A Resolution Encouraging the Collection of Compostable Materials in Residence Halls

WHEREAS the Residence Hall Association (RHA) is the governing body for all on-campus students, and

WHEREAS the University of Maryland is ranked as the 13th greenest campus in the United States for 2014 by the Sierra Club [1] and continuously strives to be a model green university, and

WHEREAS according to the Waste Stream Analysis conducted by SCS Engineers in 2008, 40% of waste in the residence halls was compostable, totaling 480 pounds (200 lbs per dumpster, 3 dumpsters, each dumpster sampled twice: 200 lbs * 3 dumpsters = 600 lbs * 2 (sampled twice) = 1200 lbs * .40 = 480).

WHEREAS compostable items are currently entering the waste stream because there are no facilities for collecting compostable materials in the residence halls, and

WHEREAS the collection of compostable material in the residence halls would reduce the amount of material in landfills, and

WHEREAS according to the EPA, “composting organic materials that have been diverted from landfills ultimately avoids the production of methane and leachate formulation in the landfills,” [2], and

WHEREAS the collection of compostable materials in the residence halls falls directly under the interests of RHA, and

WHEREAS a logical first step in collecting compostable materials in the residence halls would be to collect paper towels in the bathrooms because of relatively easy implementation, and

WHEREAS the University of Maryland Student Government Association (SGA) has passed a resolution supporting the collection of compostable materials in the residence halls (Appendix A),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that RHA endorse the pilot residential composting program in partnership with Resident Life, Residential Facilities, and the SGA Sustainability Committee, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SCOM will develop educational outreach to inform students about the types of materials that can be composted and the benefits of composting, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that RHA supports the collaboration with Residential Facilities in developing an implementation strategy for the collection of paper towels for composting in the bathrooms of residence halls, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that RHA supports the collection of all compostable materials in all residence halls on campus pending results of the pilot program.

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Sources: