



# ***Recycle Right Campaign ORF/ORS Green Team***

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## *Problem Statement*

**Only 10% of materials placed in recycling bins at the NIH Bethesda Campus cafeterias are able to be recycled.**

Recycling procedures vary at all levels, making it important that signage and communication methods are simple, visual and culturally appropriate to properly facilitate disposal of waste.



## *NIH Green Teams*

- Each Institute, Center and Office (ICO) at the NIH has a Green Team to increase the sustainability of their ICO and the NIH.
- Green teams are made up of volunteers within each ICO.
- Green teams help the NIH meet the goals of the NIH Environmental Management System.



## *NIH ORF/ORS*

The NIH Office of Research Facilities (ORF) supports the National Institutes of Health (NIH) medical and research community by providing, maintaining and operating the NIH facilities.

The Office of Research Services (ORS) provides the NIH with a wide variety of programs and employee services that include Safety, Security and Scientific and Regulatory Support Programs.



## *ORF/ORS Green Team*

The ORF and ORS Green Teams joined in January of 2018 to form the ORF/ORS Green Team.



The team identified Bethesda campus cafeteria recycling procedures as confusing and difficult to understand.



Reviewed recycling yields from cafeterias and discussed concerns with the NIH Recycling Coordinator, identifying this as campus-wide issue.



Established the 2018 team goal to increase recycling rates in the cafeterias.

## *Recycle Right Campaign*

- In 2017, only 10% of materials placed in recycling bins at the NIH Bethesda campus cafeterias were able to be recycled.
- Comingled recycling bins at the NIH cafeterias are being contaminated with non-recyclable materials.
- Contaminated recycling is often disposed as trash.
- Supports The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Sustainability Goal 7, Pollution Prevention and Waste Reduction.

## Common Contaminants

- Compostable Utensils
- Plastic Bags
- Paper, Napkins and Tissue
- Unwashed Food Containers



# Recycle Right

CLEAN AND EMPTY ONLY







## *Communication Challenges*

- Getting information across the ICOs to a diverse NIH population.
- Recycling procedures vary at all levels.
- The NIH is an international community.
- The NIH receives many visitors.

## *Multimedia Campaign*

- NIH Environmental Management System (NEMS) Webpage
- NIH Green Zone Newsletter
- Outreach Events
  - Safety, Health, and Wellness Day
  - NIH Green Labs Fair
  - Earth Day
  - Provided flyers and communication





The map illustrates the NIH campus layout, featuring numerous buildings numbered 1 through 67, with some labeled as 'A', 'B', 'C', '4A', '5', '8', '11', '12', '13', '14', '15', '15K', '16', '16A', '17', '18', '21', '22', '23', '28', '29', '29B-A', '30', '31', '32', '33', '34', '35', '35A', '37', '38', '38A', '40', '41', '42', '45', '46', '49', '50', '53', '60', '61', '62', '63', '64', '65', '66', and '67'. Key streets include Center Dr, South Dr, Wilson Dr, East Dr, North Dr, West Dr, Convent Dr, Memorial Dr, and Lincoln Dr. The NIH Clinical Center is centrally located. Other notable buildings include the Gateway Center, Natcher Building, and the National Library of Medicine. The map also shows several 'MLP' (Main Lobby Plaza) areas and 'Lot 41'. A legend in the bottom left corner provides symbols for Metro, Patient & Patient Visitor Parking, Visitor Parking, Employee Parking Access, Employee Parking, Employee Pedestrian Entry, Patient & Patient Visitor Entry, and Visitor Pedestrian Entry. The map is overlaid with a grid of streets and includes a compass rose indicating North.

## *Multimedia Campaign*

### Tent Cards

- Rotated and reused throughout all Bethesda Campus cafeterias
- Followed the communication guidelines and findings from the Waste and Resource Recovery Branch (WRRB) recycling study

### Recycle Right Video

- Available on ORS YouTube Channel
- Displayed on Bethesda Campus cafeteria TV screens





## *ORF/ORS Green Team Recycle Right Video*

# **RECYCLE RIGHT VIDEO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sguM1xjZI4E>



*Thank you!*

Questions?

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# *Additional Slides*



## *Compostable Utensils*

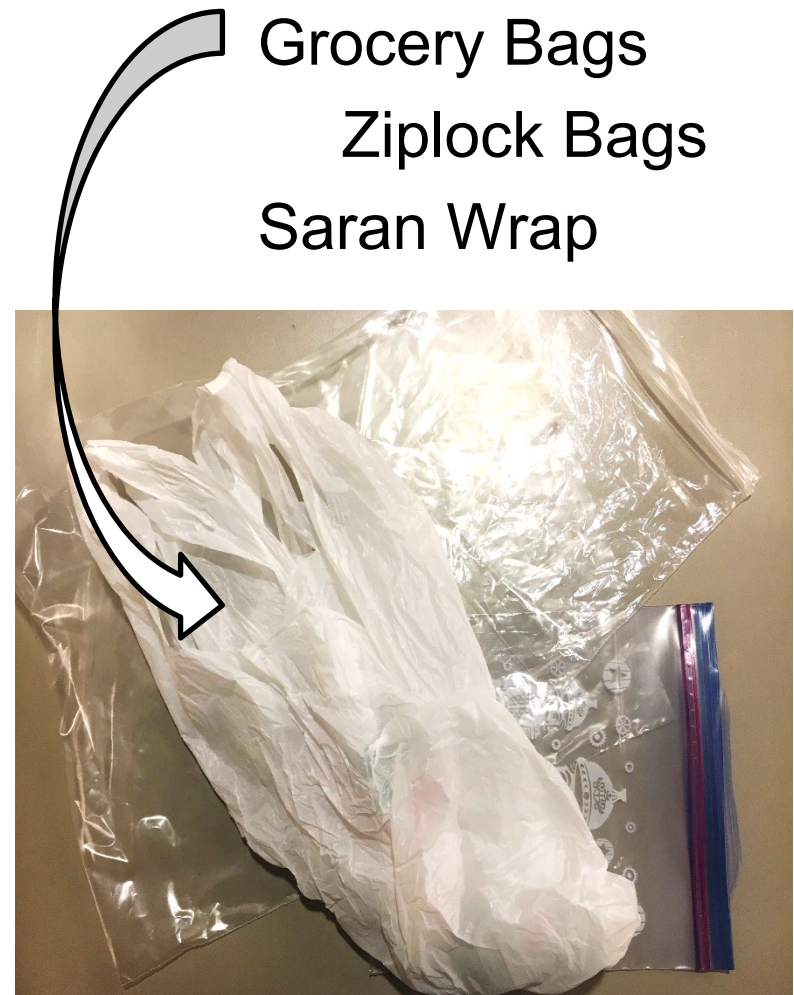
- The utensils in the Bethesda Campus cafeterias are compostable.
- Compostable utensils cannot be recycled.
- The NIH Bethesda campus does not currently have composting.
- Compostable utensils should be thrown in the trash.





## *Soft Plastics*

- Soft plastics cannot be recycled in the comingled recycling bins.
- Soft plastic recycling containers can be found in over 19 locations at the NIH Bethesda campus.
- Better to throw in the trash than contaminate a recycling container.



## *Paper, Napkins and Tissue*

- Cannot be recycled in the cafeteria recycle bins.
- Clean newspapers can be recycled in the mixed paper bins found in most office spaces.
- Otherwise, these should be thrown in the trash.



## *Unwashed Food Containers*

- Recyclables need to be clean and empty.
- Food contains mold and bacteria that poses a health risk.
- Drain beverage containers.
- Wipe food containers.

