



## GSO Senate Resolution 24.06

### A Resolution Regarding Waste at Syracuse University

**Author(s):** Dominic Wilkins (Senator At-Large & Climate Action Committee Co-Chair)

**Sponsor(s):** Andrea Sprague-Getsy (University Senator); Alex Scrivner (Senator At-Large); Adarsh Raghuram (APS Geography and the Environment)

**Date(s):** 6 December 2023 (Introduced)

**Action(s):** Passed (40 Yes, 3 No, 3 Abstain)

**Chair of the Senate:** CJ Arnell

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate:** Roger Rosena

**Parliamentarian:** R. Luke VanderSchaaff

**President of the Student Body:** Daniel J. Kimmel

**Whereas,** The production of waste and its disposal constitutes a key vector by which institutions and communities affect socio-ecologies; and

**Whereas,** Syracuse University's mission and those of its subsidiary colleges commits the institution to acting for the public good; and

**Whereas,** Syracuse University received a score of 2.48/8.00 for Waste Minimization and Diversion on its most recent Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education "Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System" report (2022); and

**Whereas,** that same report indicates that 53% of wastes produced by Syracuse University are either incinerated or disposed of in landfills; and

**Whereas,** such methods of disposal are heavily linked to the production and continuation of environmental injustice; and

**Whereas,** that same report and association highlights recycling, composting, and donating as key metrics for increasing the sustainability of institutions of higher education; and

**Whereas**, that same report indicates an average contamination rate of only .05% for the university's recycling programs; and

**Recognizing**, the limits which efforts to minimize the effect of wastes, as opposed to reducing waste production itself, face as pathways toward sustainability and environmental justice; and

**Recognizing**, that rapid turnover, logistical hurdles, and administrative barriers mean student-led efforts to change institutional operations associated with waste management (such as the undergraduate-led Food Recovery Network) are often ephemeral, rather than systemically transformative; so be it

**Resolved**, that the GSO and its executive leadership commits to advocating for waste reduction efforts across Syracuse University; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the GSO calls for efforts to better manage wastes which are produced, including but not limited to efforts to increase effective recycling and composting efforts; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the GSO calls for a thorough, publicly-released audit of Syracuse University's waste production and management practices which highlights areas for and pathways to improvement; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the GSO President, University Senators, and other members so inclined will communicate this call for such an audit to relevant university officials and organizations, such as the undergraduate Student Association, and take further actions they deem necessary.