

Resolution 15: Increasing the Number of Sustainable Waste Receptacles on

2	Campus
3 4 5 6 7 8	Abstract: In order to ensure Cornell University remains a clean, safe, environmentally sustainable, and ecologically compatible educational and living community, investments must be made to increase the number of sustainably compatible waste receptacles across the University's Ithaca, New York campus. Additionally, waste receptacles ought to be strategically placed such that both financial and natural resources are conserved, recycling habits are rationally incentivized, in order to protect these lands, public health, natural resources, and regional biodiversity.
9	Sponsored by: Josh Washington, Master's Representative
10	Reviewed by: Committee on Infrastructure, Technology, and the Environment, 20/03/2022
11	Whereas, Cornell University is recognized as a "global leader in sustainability and climate change
12	research, teaching and engagement," specifically, such that our "campuses are living laboratories for
13	developing, testing and implementing solutions that address these most challenging issues," as
14	digitally noted by administrators, and
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16	Whereas, Cornell University is currently "the leading Ivy League institution rated by AASHE
17	STARS, and one of just eight universities in the world to achieve the highest possible STARS rating
18	of Platinum," ² and
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20	Whereas, Cornell University's Campus Master Plan promotes the important role of stewardship
21	ensuring that the University's continued development "respect[s] and manage[s] the physical
22	environment of the campus and its broader land base for the health of the university, its
23	constituencies, its neighbors and the larger regional ecosystem,"3 and
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²https://sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/about/reports-awards-facts/awards-rankings#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20Cornell%20University%20became,possible%20STARS%20rating%20of%20Platinum.

³https://masterplan.cornell.edu/doc/CMP_PART_1/campus_maste__plan_principles_essential_features.pdf



25 Whereas, in their November 16, 2021 visit to the Assembly, President Pollack and Vice President Malina expressed their support for the sustainable development of campus, noted the important role 26 27 that sustainable infrastructure plays in the daily happenings of the Cornell community, and 28 29 Whereas, the installation of such "smart" waste and recycling infrastructure has the potential to 30 "measure diversion rates," by employing using self-harnessed solar power to continuously provide waste accumulation metrics, resulting in informed decision making with respect to collection times, 31 32 cycles, and/or patterns, and 33 Whereas, "smart" waste management and recycling infrastructure are similarly outfitted with the 34 technology necessary to "periodically compact[s] the trash inside, creating space for more," and 35 36 37 Whereas, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste 38 accumulation, our current waste disposal and recycling system inefficiently and unnecessarily burns 39 fossil fuels and wastes financial resources surveying and collecting waste from receptacles that are 40 not fully filled, and 41 42 Whereas, in the current absence of a similar method of remotely tracking metrics of waste 43 accumulation, admirable attempts to conserve financial resources and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inadvertently neglect overfilled waste receptacles, resulting in a greater likelihood 44 45 of wildlife accessing waste, posing a potential danger physical danger, as well as perpetuates existing 46 issues of waste ending up in our local waterways and natural environment(s), resulting in devastating environmental/ecological consequences, and 47 48

⁴ https://bigbelly.com/solutions/campus/

⁵ https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly



49 Whereas, our peer institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ⁶ Brown University,7 and Boston University8 have all implemented "smart waste & recycling" initiatives on 50 51 their campuses with phenomenal success, and 52 Be it therefore resolved, Cornell University shall efficiently invest the funds and resources 53 54 necessary for the full, successful implementation of a campus-wide network of solar-powered waste receptacles, outfitted with monitorization technology allowing for the efficient tracking of waste 55 receptacle capacity in order to strategically plan collection timing, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas 56 57 emissions necessarily involved in waste collection and processing, and 58 59 Be it further resolved, such waste receptacles must be limited in quantity as a means of reducing 60 greenhouse gas emissions and the financial burden of sustaining this initiative, however, these 61 installed "smart" receptacles ought to be strategically placed with respect to foot-traffic and living spaces, facilitating practical, equitable access to proper waste disposal, in totality ensuring adequate 62 waste and recycling disposal is rationally incentivized, limiting the propensity for littering and 63 dumping, and 64 65 Be it finally resolved, the commencement of this initiative will continue to support the historic and 66 67 thriving environmentalist values of Cornell University, making good on promises of sustainable development. 68 69 70 Respectfully Submitted, 71 Josh Washington 72 Master's Representative

⁶ https://news.mit.edu/2011/bigbelly-solar-at-mit

⁷ https://news.brown.edu/articles/2011/02/belly

⁸ https://www.bu.edu/articles/2009/big-bellied-trash-eaters-arrive/