



Student Zero Waste Advocate

To bring us closer to our zero waste goals, new campus programs are launched and current programs tweaked and improved. The successful implementation and effectiveness of these programs is contingent upon “on the ground” advocates. We strive for each campus building to have at least one identified Zero Waste champion, acting as a liaison for the Center for Sustainability. We call these champions “**Zero Waste Advocates**”. While we have staff and faculty advocates in administrative buildings, the “Student Zero Waste Advocate” is the primary champion/advocate of the sustainability initiative within their residential area.

The Advocate is the zero waste voice in their respective building. This point person is asked to bring all issues, ideas, challenges, and successes related to composting, recycling, and special collections to the Center for Sustainability’s attention, as appropriate. The Advocate also plays an important role informally educating students, advocating for zero waste within their peer group, and acting as a model for zero waste by recycling, composting, and minimizing waste whenever possible.

Responsibilities include:

- Annual, Mandatory Zero Waste training scheduled with Jessica
- Required check-in with what you’ve done to promote sustainable living in your on-campus community quarterly (once every quad). This can be a simple email.
- Spreading pertinent zero waste updates to the students and staff in your area
- Educating residents on zero waste
- As appropriate: Advising of the need for additional recycling and composting bins and/or rearrangement of bin locations for added convenience
- As appropriate: Advising of issues regarding the collection of recyclables and compostables
- As appropriate: Recognizing and informing of necessary changes to educational signage
- As appropriate: Identifying and communicating additional training needs on composting and recycling

The time commitment is very minimal for this volunteer position. We have regular standing meetings of all staff, faculty, and student Advocates (about 2 per semester), but they are completely optional. This position offers you a chance to build your resume and contribute to sustainability at Aquinas College. If you are passionate about composting, recycling, and zero waste and want to become a Student Zero Waste Advocate, please contact Jessica Eimer Bowen with the Center for Sustainability. eimerjes@aquinas.edu or 1994.