



**Zero Waste Office Pledge**

Our office supports Aquinas College’s goal of reaching zero waste. It is understood that the college follows the industry accepted definition of zero waste: a 90% diversion of waste from landfills and incinerators (*Zero Waste International Alliance*). We are committed to managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume of waste generated.

When disposing of an item, we will:

- Consider if the item is at the end of its useful life. If not, we will be sure the item is reused.
- Recycle and compost when possible
- If we are unsure of the proper disposal of a waste item, we will ask the zero waste building champion or a zero waste team member.

Our office will work to make the following changes in our purchasing:

- Avoid single use products and packaging
- Return to vendors any wasteful packaging, when possible
- Reduce packaging and buy in bulk units
- Purchase reused products, or products with a high recycled content
- Rent and share equipment, as appropriate

We also pledge to:

- Share the zero waste message with other Aquinas Community members, as appropriate
- Politely educate community members who are incorrectly disposing of waste material
- Purchase/make containers to collect compostable waste in our work spaces, as needed

**Office/Department Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Office Number** (e.g. “AB 251”): \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you signing this pledge for your personal office or your entire department?** (circle one)

Personal Office

Department

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to Jessica Eimer Bowen, AB 255*