A **sustainable zero waste event** is one where you have taken steps in planning and implementation to lessen the environmental impact by:

- Minimizing the use of energy
- Recycling whatever possible
- Minimizing the amount of waste sent to a landfill
- Using Reduce, Reuse, Recycle as a guideline

*University of Delaware does not have composting abilities at this time.*

For a Student Initiative Fund event to be considered a **Sustainable Zero Waste Event**, please complete the following checklist. In order for your program to qualify for additional funding, **ALL** of the following areas must be completed.

**FOOD:**
- No food will be purchased.
- OR
- The food portion of the program will focus on the following (all of the following must be met to qualify):
  - Attendees will be encouraged to bring mugs, plates, and silverware.
  - Food will be prepared by organizers and/or attendees.
  - Just enough food will be prepared for anticipated attendees, or there is a plan for excess food.

**DECORATIONS:**
- No decorations will be needed.
- OR
- All decorations will be made of reusable items or materials.
SUPPLIES:
☐ Any nonperishable/non-food item (such as games, equipment, supplies, etc.) will be able to be stored and reused multiple times (Coordinate storage with RHC).

ADVERTISEMENTS:
☐ All advertising will be electronic:
  a. email
  b. group me/other social media
  c. electronic flyers

MEASUREMENTS:
• Items for measuring the amount of waste will be in supply.
• Reaching one of the two goals of zero waste:
  ☐ Zero waste to landfill
    a. Constant landfill waste diversion rate of 100%
  ☐ Virtually zero waste to landfill
    b. Achievement of landfill waste diversion of 98% or higher

The formula for measuring zero waste is:

\[
\frac{(\text{Amount of recycling})}{(\text{Amount of Waste} + \text{Amount of recycling})} \times 100
\]

Fill out google form with waste measurements after event.
ZERO WASTE EVENT EXAMPLES:

• Instead of using disposable plates and silverware, ask residents attending to bring their own plates and silverware from their rooms.

• Buy items in bulk to help cut back on amount of total waste and recyclables. Instead of buying a pack of drinks, opt for bigger bottles.

• Use cloth napkins instead of paper towels or other forms of disposable napkins.

• Before going out to get supplies, ask your RA what supplies are available in the resource room.

• Instead of ordering take out, opt to cook for the event. When shopping for food supplies, look for packaging that can be recycled OR bring your own bags and containers to the store to buy supplies in bulk.

• Instead of using plastic bags at checkout, bring your own bags.

• Instead of buying disposable items, opt for items that can be reused again.

• For crafting events, left over supplies should be stored in the resource room so others have the opportunity to use them.

• Instead of printing out flyers or writing sticky notes to everyone, send emails and group messages and ask your RA to make an announcement at a floor meeting if applicable.

• YES! You can still order pizza! Just make sure to cut out the bigger grease stain since that part is not recyclable.

• YES! You can still order take out! Buy in bulk instead of everyone placing a separate order. Most places on Main St. have recyclable friendly containers.