

# Michigan State University to Launch Zero Waste Campaign

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Although “Go Green” can be seen as a sort of battle cry for Spartans to show their school patriotism, the term could be used as a double meaning. With the ever-changing atmosphere and climate change arising, going “green” is more important now than ever.

Michigan State University’s (MSU) “Green Spartans: A Campus Sustainability Challenge” is a great way to challenge the Spartan Community to be conscious of their everyday choices while having fun. Many people live daily lives that promote waste and/or negative impact on the environment without ever realizing it.

When the sun comes out on campus, I like taking a walk around and enjoying the cool breeze and the rustling of leaves. Another fun activity is getting friends together for a picnic and enjoying the beautiful atmosphere with good company.

MSU is giving away free MSU-branded water bottles to keep students hydrated and waste free. The university is also giving away bike gear discounts to encourage students and faculty to go carbon free as they travel about. Take advantage of the incentives being provided and get involved.

Although getting fresh air is essential, so is taking care of the planet. One way I have learned to be mindful of my everyday choices is to research what materials can be recycled. Michigan State University makes my life easy by providing recycling bins all around campus. Sustainability is a mindset that must be shared collectively and not just by the individual. “Sustainability isn’t just about policy — it’s about people making small choices every day. Together, Spartans can make a big impact.” said the Director of the Office of Sustainability. Together we can make a change.

MSU’s goal for the “Green Spartans: A Campus Sustainability Challenge” is to significantly reduce waste around campus. With the help from the Spartan community, they believe they can reduce the campus carbon footprint by 2030. I believe we can get there too. However, this will take work. This will not happen overnight.

Becoming “green” does not mean you have to change your entire life. It can mean that you recycle your milk carton instead of throwing it away. Taking a reusable water bottle (preferably MSU themed) to class or work. Bike to class instead of driving, and most importantly being more intentional about your everyday life, green’ or not. Together, we can stop the planet from suffering. We can reverse the damage that has been caused. Go outside, enjoy the fresh air and take a swig of water while soaking in the sun. Take “Go Green” to a new level.