

Maryland Day Sustainability Suggestions – UMD SGA

Maryland Day serves as an opportunity to open our incredible campus to 80,000 guests, including student families, prospective students, alumni and community members. On this day we have the opportunity to show these visitors the vast sustainability efforts of our campus and to demonstrate that it is integral to our university's activities. We are already doing a lot for sustainability on Maryland Day, but there is still a much more that can be accomplished. In this document I have outlined 5 specific issues that the SGA Sustainability Committee has identified within Maryland Day, and possible solutions to each one.

1. **Issue:** Roughly 5,000 volunteers received lunches for Maryland Day, and they all received a sandwich wrapped in plastic along with a plastic single use water bottle. This creates an unnecessary amount of waste.
 - a. **Solution:** Buffet lunches. For 2 hours on Maryland Day, open up a buffet lunch in a specific location where volunteers can come and dine without having to use single use plastic products.

2. **Issue:** We are already doing a great deal in regards to sustainability on Maryland Day, but we are not sufficiently advertising this message
 - a. **Solutions:**
 - i. Information on MD Day website about sustainability efforts
 - ii. Clear signage next to water filling stations and all waste sort stations explaining why we have them and why they are important
 - iii. Include information regarding sustainability in the printed-paper programs
 - iv. Sustainability information at every station/table

3. **Issue:** Giveaways from the different stations/tables at Maryland Day are excessive and create a great deal of waste, as many of these giveaways end up being thrown away later on.
 - a. **Solutions:**
 - i. When considering a giveaway, ask the following questions:
 1. *Is it functional?*
 2. *Is it durable?*
 3. *Is it in any way related to the message your office/dept is trying to send? Will it teach people something?*
 4. *Is it fun and engaging over time? Will people want to use it or just stash it in a drawer? These sorts of products can be more expensive.*

