



Dorm Storm

Campus Race to Zero Waste Activity

Effort & Resources



Easy to moderate.



Low to no cost.

Objective & Overview

This activity is designed to get students excited about the Campus Race to Zero Waste competition and recycling in general by “storming” dorms on campus with prizes for recyclers. This can be a good kickoff or mid-competition activity.

Step 1: Gather Materials and Set Schedule

- If you don't have them already, order t-shirts or buttons for your team. Enlist campus partners like residence hall councils, Eco-Reps or other groups to help underwrite the t-shirts.
- Contact Housing office and RA's in target dorms to get their approval for your plans, and schedule a time that doesn't conflict with quiet hours or another dorm activity.
- Create a script with fun facts, trivia questions, and how-to-recycle information for volunteers to use when interacting with people. Try to tailor facts to your specific school to get the most impact (i.e. the number of cans and bottles recycled at your school in one year is enough to wrap around the campus XX times when placed front to end, etc).

Step 2: Organize Volunteers

Recruit a group of volunteers to go door to door through the dorms during the evening or a time when most folks are around. Look for volunteers who are high-energy, animated, and aren't afraid to be loud enough to get students' attention.

Step 3: Start Storming!

Have your volunteers go door to door in the halls offering to collect their recycling. or in individual dorm room bins. Have a rally-type vibe to spread excitement. This can be combined with a “get caught recycling” type-theme (see “Get Caught Green-Handed PDF) by having the “stormers” hand out gifts to residents with a visible recycling arrangement in place or who accurately answer trivia questions.

Take it to the Next Level

If you have a mascot costume or something similar, use to make it fun. Ask if the athletic or student life office will lend you the school mascot, or consider ordering a “green man” costume online (\$20 at 80stees.com).