

**Senate Bill**

**Act Number: 2024-F-03**

**10/21/2024**

**Introduced by: Senate President Mihir Jariwala**

**Proposed by: Senate President Mihir Jariwala, Secretary of Sustainability Kristen Senesi, and Senator Michael Chabot**

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

**Whereas:** The college website has stated that, “Since its founding in 1969, Ramapo College of New Jersey has had a clear commitment to sustainability. As the world around us has come to realize the importance of renewable energy, pollution control, the elimination of waste, and the adoption of ‘green practices,’ we have renewed our commitment to sustainability.”;

**Whereas:** The SGA has passed a [bill](#) which sought for the SGA to campaign and educate on proper recycling practices as well as increase signage of recycling;

**Whereas:** [A study](#) of over 240 residential and commuter students was conducted by several Environmental Science students at Ramapo College of New Jersey in May of 2024. The objective of this study was to understand student recycling habits by 1. Discerning if the newly implemented recycling magnets were effective among the resident students. 2. Comparing resident knowledge to commuter knowledge on recycling;

**Whereas:** In this study of over 240 students, they found that around 15% of respondents were never certain when it came to what items are actually recyclable and 76% of respondents were sometimes uncertain;

**Whereas:** In this study of over 240 students, they found that only around 35% of respondents never recycle lined paper cups for hot beverages, an item that should not be placed in recycling;

**Whereas:** In this study of over 240 students, concerns have been expressed regarding the lack of proper recycling locations in the CPAs, the Village, and the main parking lot;

**Whereas:** The event of someone throwing a recyclable in the trash was commonly reported among the responses in the study aforementioned, evident in the question regarding pizza boxes. Across the three

groups, an average of about 32% of respondents always threw out their pizza boxes in the trash. The rest did not report discarding pizza boxes in the trash or made an effort to recycle, with a split between correctly informed recycling and contamination;

**Whereas:** Contamination, the event of someone throwing something unrecyclable in recycling, is a major concern on campus and was reported under every relevant question in the study aforementioned (It only takes one item that is unrecyclable to ruin the whole batch of recyclable items). This event of contamination has occurred numerous times on campus, and has led to several fines being imposed on the college from the company that handles the college's trash;

**Whereas:** Whilst the newly implemented magnets on the fridges in residence halls provide very useful information on recycling, concerns have been raised over the lack of recycling information on the recycling bins themselves, both inside and outside residence halls;

**Whereas:** Committees, organizations, and clubs, such as Ramapo Green, 1-Step, the President's Committee on Campus Sustainability, the SGA's Committee of Sustainability, and more have committed themselves to educate students, faculty, and staff on proper sustainability measures as well as taking initiative to make the campus a more environmentally-friendly place.

**Whereas:** Facilities have continuously implemented physical measures to promote proper recycling and sustainability on campus, such as providing the aforementioned recycling magnets to residence halls, initiating the Student Aide Recycling Coordinator program, purchasing and installing both trash and recycling bins, and plenty more. In addition, they have also provided social support for sustainability such as aiding in a move-out drive to promote reusing, distributed educational materials regarding recycling through flyers and tabling events, and utilized the Daily Digest to promote recycling digitally to the campus community;

**Whereas:** In order for Facilities to implement effective recycling strategies such as signage and recycling bins, they require the aid of the student body to give detailed advice on recycling, such as where specifically recycling bins should be placed, what kind of signage would be most understandable to the community, and how to most effectively communicate recycling practices with members of the community;

**Whereas:** Resident Assistants (RAs) provide insightful advice and information to residents of every residence hall in regards to how to properly maintain and manage a dorm;

**Whereas:** Peer Facilitators support first-year students on becoming acclimated to the culture and environment of Ramapo College, providing information such as how to register for classes, understanding four-year plans, as well as intranet and campus navigation;

**Whereas:** Orientation Leaders guide incoming students through the transition into college life at Ramapo, acting as a mentor and advising these students on any academic or social concerns they have;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Student Government Association shall work with many of the committees, organizations, and clubs that are dedicated to sustainability in order to update, develop, and effectively share further knowledge and resources on proper recycling procedures;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Student Government Association shall cooperate with Facilities and other groups aforementioned to prepare and provide further signage of proper recycling on campus, both inside and outside the residence halls, as well as work with Facilities to provide easier access to recycling bins in locations that lack recycling bins, or have bins that are difficult to locate. The design of these initiatives will be conducted from the detailed concerns and advice from the student body and the groups aforementioned as to produce the most effective results when it comes to promoting proper recycling;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The Student Government Association along with the sustainability groups aforementioned shall work with Residential Affairs and the New Student Experience to work on and provide resources on proper recycling and sustainability to Residential Assistants, Peer Facilitators, and Orientation Leaders in order to educate them on proper recycling practices as well as to allow them to share these resources with the general student body when possible.

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**Victor Oluwagbemi**  
President '24 - '25

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**Mihir Jariwala**  
Senate President '24 - '25