Our Mission

The Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) supports students in reimagining systems beyond the Linear Consumption Economy. We equip students with the resources and tools necessary to holistically understand the Waste Crisis and lead solutions on their campuses. Collectively, we can build a world beyond waste.
A Message From the Co-Executive Directors

Looking back at FY8 as a whole, **we are so proud of how far the movement has come.** At the start of the year, the only thing we knew for sure was that the year would be unpredictable and that we would have to be flexible. Many campuses started the year in person but then switched to remote learning as COVID impacted campus after campus. Some students moved to and from campus up to four times throughout the year. Programs like move out, free stores and dorm composting had to develop creative adaptations to meet the changing needs of their campus communities. **To maintain this level of flexibility we focused on resilience,** taking lessons from trees in a windstorm.

Throughout, it was more important than ever to walk the line between internal & external priorities: we refined policies and procedures to support our staff and our network. At the same time, we maintained our commitment to creating engagements that center student leadership, grassroots people power, and a systemic approach to solving the waste crisis. **We continue to hold the belief that we are building a world that we want live in** within the PLAN team and with our programming. In this report, we aim to provide a snapshot of what the PLAN network accomplished this past year.
Annual Snapshot

Investment in Student Leadership

- **Supported 40 students** throughout the year for paid positions organizing on their own campuses.
- Hosted **Digital Network Meetups** for students to virtually connect with each other beyond their own campuses.
- Had a **virtual summer PLANternship program**, hiring four students to provide input and support for our project work.

Release of New Educational Material

- Digitized our **Beyond Waste Leadership Certification** with five courses of student leadership training material.
- PLAN’s **Program Case Library** now offers a searchable database of over 300 case studies of zero waste campus programming available to all members.
- Supported the troubleshooting of **reuse programs in adapting to COVID-19**
  - Created a **Reusables and Sanitation Toolkit**
  - Researched and published [four campus case studies on reusable dining](#)
  - Hosted digital sessions for cross-campus staff and student solution-sharing with over 300 total attendees.
Annual Snapshot

Engaging Campuses for Zero Waste Action

- Adjusted our membership pricing system to a sliding scale to better support community colleges, trade schools, and Minority-serving Institutions (MSI). (With this new system in place, we exceeded our income goals for membership for the year by 43%)

- Publically released two Strategic Visions for Zero Waste through the Atlas Stage 2 Fellowship: Williams College & University of Louisville

- Launched the first ever zero waste certification tool that is not based in diversion. The Atlas Zero Waste Certification™ creates a standard benchmarking tool for campuses to set meaningful goals and track progress toward zero waste

- Students Taking on Oil & Petrochemicals (STOP) launched in Fall 2020 in partnership with frontline organizers in the Ohio River Valley to mobilize local campus communities around the fight against plastic and petrochemical industry

- Supported over 100 campuses in active campaigns to sign on to the Break Free From Plastic Campus Pledge
Annual Snapshot

Organizational Development

This year we maintained stability in our team, supporting 11 full time staff members in 9 different locations. We also welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors, including two current students. Additional updates on our operations include:

- **Adjusted pay-scale guidelines** to take into account area cost of living for each staff member
- **Implemented raises** for all staff at an average rate of 9%
- **Initiated process for updating guiding documents** to be released in FY9 including:
  - Strategic Plan
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Mandate
  - Safer Space Policy
  - Ethical Partnerships Policy
1,787
Student and Staff Participants

975
Campuses in our Network

75
PLAN Member Campuses

Program Participation Breakdown
- 692 Event Attendees
- 540 Training Participants
- 512 Advising Calls
- 43 Internships and Fellowships
63 Events Hosted

Reusable To-Go Container Programs During COVID
Mon, March 29 at 4pm EST
Join us for a panel of four campus leaders who started or expanded reusable to-go container programs during COVID! Panels include:
- Sarah Levesque (University of Vermont)
- Marissa Watson (University of Connecticut)
- Andrew Farlas (University of South Carolina)
- Katherine Targett-Cross (University of Kentucky)

All events are 3-4pm EST

SESSIONS LIST

- **Self-care as Community Care**
  May 5 • Dr. Julia Harper
- **WTF is Mutual Aid: Campus Organizing During COVID**
  May 12 • Cookie Desai
- **Black Voices in the Environmental Movement**
  May 18 • Panel • Black-Only Space
- **Conflict in Community: Building Transformative Teams**
  May 26 • Marla Robertson

Leadership Turnover During COVID
March 11, 3-4pm EST

- Sabrina (Student) University of California
- Kobine (Student) College of the Atlantic
- Susan (Staff) State University of NY

Ask The Experts: Eliminating Plastic On Your Campus
Feb 22, 5-6pm EST

- #breakfreefromplastic

Monthly Movement Movie Nights!
Film Showing + Discussion
Flint's Deadly Water
November 17

Student Network Call
Tues, March 9
6:30 - 7:30 PM EST

- Join Jensen and Ramira for a discussion with fellow students about program successes, challenges, and strategizing due to COVID.

Beyond Waste Student Summits 2021

- **Campus Compost Summit** February 6th
- **Break Free From Plastic Summit** March 6th
- **Food for Thought Summit** April 10
- **Fashion Forward Summit** May 1

Getting Started: Free And Thrift Stores Q&A
Fri, March 5, 3-4 PM EST

- Iyanu

2021 VIRTUAL SUMMITS
Program Testimonials

**PLASTIC FREE CAMPUS ACTION CAMP**
February 2-25

"I strongly recommend this camp to any student activist who wants to hone their organizing skills through a lens of environmental justice!"

- Rachael Hood
  West Virginia University

"Learning about how my campus handles its waste was eye-opening. There is still plenty of progress that needs to be made before our University can sustainably manage its waste, but we are well on our way. The Atlas Fellowship gave me a great opportunity to learn more about my home, and I’m grateful for the chance to work with them.”

- Jacob Foushee, University of Louisville

**Beyond Waste**
Student Summits 2021

"I appreciate how inclusive and welcoming PLAN members and trainers/volunteers were; I felt comfortable and a sense of unified collaboration with everyone. I also love the creativity and excitement that went into the event."

- [Image]
Financial Report

Revenue: $875,498
- Annual Donors Committed 52%
- Grants Committed 40%
- Program Revenue (memberships, contracts, events...) 8%
- Sponsorships .3%

Expenses: $648,301
- Staffing 75%
- Staff Benefits & Support Systems 12%
- Programming Expenses 9%
- Legal, Insurance & Accounting 4%
McGill provides free access to guides, workshops, certifications and more through partnership with student-led zero-waste resource.

By Maya Willard-Stepan, Communications Intern

APRIL 15, 2021

Marshall University aiming to go plastic-free by 2026

by AVA RASH | Tuesday, January 26th 2021

Emory signs 'Break Free From Plastic' pledge

Emory Report | June 16, 2021

Onward State

Student Orgs Work To Promote Sustainability, Zero-Waste Initiatives

Student Life

The Daily Tar Heel

UNC students work to eliminate single-use plastics on campus
Thank you to our Board of Directors!

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And all of our Monthly and One-Time Donors
Support PLAN and the Movement against Waste.

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