Introduction to the Project

Over 700 universities across the United States (AASHE, 2010) seeking to be progressive and containing the resources for change, have partnered together under the American College and Universities President's Climate Commitment to lower emissions and improve sustainability on their campuses (AASHE, 2014). The President's Climate Commitment includes 7 tangible actions, of which the University of Richmond must fulfill two or more. With the University of Richmond, a core commitment is to advance campus wide sustainability, promoting energy efficiency or water conservation. Many students express confusion towards recycling properly. They wonder how to dispose of candy wrappers, bottle caps, and other small items. This module is meant to be a short, in class, presentation on the important aspects of campus sustainability. It will include:

- Explain recycling misconceptions and common questions
- Describe the process of waste disposal and recycling for items discarded at the University
- Discuss how college campuses contribute to climate change and how they can mitigate
- Explain why taking the bus is beneficial and provide tools for making trip planning easier
- Conduct an activity in which students determine which receptacle to place an item
- Show video from the Sustainability website about how recycling works on campus

Solution:

- campus wide sustainability, promoting energy efficiency or water conservation
- Along with the First Year Seminar session, with the suggestion of the University of Richmond campus sustainability office, we structured an informative and fun sustainability education session to take place during First Year Seminar classes.
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Modular Content

- 30 Minute Session:
  - Introduction to Campus Sustainability
  - Show video from the Sustainability Office about how recycling works on campus
  - Conduct an activity in which students determine which receptacle to place an item
  - Show students popular transportation routes, along with what can be found near them
  - Explain why taking the bus is beneficial and provide tools for making trip planning easier

- 50 Minute Session:
  - Introduction to Campus Sustainability
  - Show video from the Sustainability Office about how recycling works on campus
  - Conduct an activity in which students determine which receptacle to place an item
  - Show students popular transportation routes, along with what can be found near them
  - Explain why taking the bus is beneficial and provide tools for making trip planning easier

- 60 Minute Session:
  - Introduction to Campus Sustainability
  - Show video from the Sustainability Office about how recycling works on campus
  - Conduct an activity in which students determine which receptacle to place an item
  - Show students popular transportation routes, along with what can be found near them
  - Explain why taking the bus is beneficial and provide tools for making trip planning easier

Packaging List

- 30 Minute Session:
  - Show video from the Sustainability Office about how recycling works on campus
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Recycling

- Every student expresses confusion toward recycling properly. They wonder how to dispose of candy wrappers, bottle caps, and food residue. In addition, if the students perceive an environment that is not receptive to good recycling habits, individual participation will be reduced.

Solution:

- The University of Richmond has many valuable informational resources about recycling. However, while this information is readily available, students may not know how to access it. Our session will first show a short video from the campus Sustainability Office explaining the process of recycling. This video shows students how to separate materials, store them in the proper waste receptacle, and make pooling postcards from campus recycling bins. After the video, we will see over common points of confusion that have existed previously. To do this, we will conduct an activity, called “Recycle in Sight,” an activity done at other schools (University of Alberta, 2016). Students will be asked to determine the proper disposal of a variety of items commonly purchased on campus.

Recurring Projects

- Every year students express confusion toward recycling properly. They wonder how to dispose of candy wrappers, bottle caps, and food residue. In addition, if the students perceive an environment that is not receptive to good recycling habits, individual participation will be reduced.

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- Since the session is led by other students, this will encourage first year students to recycle as they see their peers being knowledgeable and comfortable with the subject (Shap, 2006).