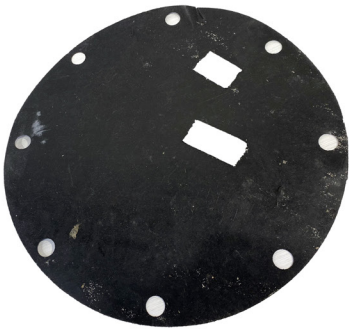


A Practical Plan for Reducing Our Impact

NEXT-SUS: RISD 2020-2027 SUSTAIN- ABILITY





A Practical Plan for Reducing Our Impact



NEXT-SUS: RISD 2020–2027

Sustainability is a response to the seven year plan in anticipation of our 150th anniversary in 2027. We felt that the strategic planning process currently in place was missing detail and direction for the reduction of our institutions impact on the environment. We approached our practical plan with these questions in mind:

1. What is the impact of a RISD Student on the environment?

2. What are the most achievable short and long term goals for reducing RISD’s impact overall?

“After more than 140 years as a leader in art and design education, we approach our 150th anniversary from a position of strength and renewed commitment to expanding our excellence, relevance and reach. As RISD continues to gain national and global recognition, our model of

education has never had more potential for greater impact,” RISD NEXT: 2020-2027. The time to step forward as a sustainable institution is now. RISD can become a model for how schools around the world could reduce their impact and help conserve our planet and it’s resources.

Of the many possible ways to evaluate one’s impact on the environment, we chose to focus on waste. As we are all artists, designers, and makers, we are all material driven people. Inevitably all RISD students and faculty make decisions about their resources, and in turn their impact. In this plan, we propose a shift in the current paradigm of unsustainable resource use.

After extensive hands on research, it has come to our attention that the Rhode Island waterways and the Narragansett bay are incredibly polluted. Specifically, they are contaminated with vast amounts of single use plastic. Although it is unlikely

"4,650 POUNDS OF PLASTIC WASTE GENERATED DAILY BY RISD,"

that any significant portion of this waste is coming from the RISD community, it has opened our eyes to a systemic problem. This is the issue of disposability.

RISD on campus food services, such as RISD Dining, RISD Catering, Carr Haus Cafe, Jolly Roger Cafe, and Cafe Pearl in the RISD Museum, all use hundreds of disposable plastic cups and utensils every single day. This amounts to an estimated 5,000 single-use plastic items thrown away daily by RISD students. At an average .93 lbs per item, that is 4,650 pounds of plastic waste generated daily by

RISD, only from on campus food services. So, what can we do? It is important to stay on task, and to remain vigilant in finding innovative solutions to large systems problems such as this. Our practical plan is designed to be an easy to follow, achievable solution, which can become a model for all aspects of the Institution. A similar plan could be created and implemented for the RISD Store, for our Studio Courses, and even in the Liberal Arts department.

The key is to assess the environment, locate sources of waste, and then prioritize what is necessary, and what can be reduced or eliminated. Ideally, one can achieve near-zero waste standard operation within seven years, without compromising the performance of the institution.

We are confident that this plan, if implemented, will be a jumping off point for a sustainable overhauling of RISD in the next seven years, and that it will inspire institutions around the world to join us in reducing our impact on the world we inhabit.

Danlei Huang & Max Pratt
MID Candidates 2021

**OUR
PRACTICAL PLAN
RESPONDS TO
RISD'S
NEGATIVE
IMPACT
ON THE EARTH.**

OUR MISSION

“The mission of Rhode Island School of Design, through its college and museum, is:

- to educate its students and the public in the creation and appreciation of works of art and design
- to discover and transmit knowledge
- and to make lasting contributions to a global society through critical thinking, scholarship and innovation.”

OUR VISION FOR 2027

“RISD will contribute to the creation of just societies, a sustainable planet, and new ways of making and knowing that equip humans to live in mutually enhancing ways with each other and with the earth.”

**“We value
the careful
stewardship
of our human,
financial,
and physical
resources.”**

RISD NEXT: 2020-2027

1

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Eliminate unnecessary single-use utensils

RISD Dining is committed to the use of sustainable and locally sourced products. The Ozzi system was launched in RISD Dining and has been providing reusable to-go containers for several years, and Carr Haus Cafe has 50c discounts for each reusable coffee mug, which is the highest among all the coffee shops in Downtown Providence, Fox Point and College Hill.

Despite this, we observed that Jolly Roger Deli uses single-use styrofoam containers to heat food in the microwave; Portfolio only provides single-use plastic cups regardless of “eating,” RISD Catering gives tacit acquiescence to single-use utensils for free and charges a \$150 fee per event for reusable tableware.

Fri 7am-10am

un + Holidays

ental 8am-10am

ch 10am-2pm

-unch

ri 11:30am-2pm

Grill

11:30am-9pm

Dinner

ily 5pm-9pm

ate Night

11pm

SPRING DINING EXPERIENCE
 SPRING PLAN MEALS AT THE MET
 VARIETY OF OFFERINGS
 IN A VEGETARIAN ENVIRONMENT, ARTISAN FUSION,
 BLAD BARS, SUSHI, SMOOTHIES AND
 CREAMY SUGGESTS + PASTRIES
 SCHEDULE THROUGH BUREAU REDUCTIONS
 FALL DINING PLAN STARTS
 PT. 23, 2013 END DATE: JANUARY 17, 2014
 SPRING DINING PLAN STARTS
 MARCH 18, 2014 END DATE: MAY 23, 2014
 COST

PER MEAL	8 W-WEELY DEDUCTIONS	4 MONTHLY DEDUCTIONS
\$7.20		
\$8.60	\$67.50	\$266.00
\$9.50	\$153.75	\$107.50
	\$79.60	\$18.70

RE INFORMATION - SCAN CODE

Figure 1. A photograph of the experimental setup. The subject is seated at a table, viewing a video screen. The screen displays a target (a small circle) and a starting point (a small circle). The subject's hand is positioned at the starting point. The video screen is connected to a computer system.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

A close-up photograph of a metal grate or screen, showing a grid of small, square openings. The metal appears to be a light color, possibly aluminum or stainless steel, and the lighting creates a pattern of highlights and shadows across the grid.

[illegible]

Plastics and Styrofoam comprise 90% of all marine debris,

with single-use food and beverage containers being one of the most common items found in ocean and coastal surveys. Using unnecessary single-use utensils goes against the RISD values of sustainability and responsibility.

We appeal for an end of single-use utensils throughout on-campus areas:

- **Eliminate single-use utensils served in RISD catering.**
- **Eliminate single-use plastic and paper cups served in all on-campus dining areas.**
- **Eliminate single-use plastic kitchen ware used in all on-campus dining areas.**

2

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Refine waste-sorting and recycling system

RISD joined Resource Recovery's effort to standardize Rhode Island's recycling bins in 2016. "At RISD our new trash and recycle bins simply read: 'Trash' and 'Recycle'. Transitioning from multiple separate containers (for trash, paper, bottles and cans) into single stream recycling can be a bit confusing for users at times," notes Alan Cantara, RISD Environmental, Health & Safety Manager. At the beginning of Autumn 2019, Portfolio started to use new waste-sorting trash bins, using icons as well as animations to visualize the trash-sorting classification. The RISD mailroom also operates recycling bins, collecting package wrapping in three different categories: styrofoam, plastic and cardboard. We are proud that RISD commits to recycling as a practice and to reducing waste.

By our observation, there is still much to be improved. In the US, every state has different policies for trash sorting and recycling. Since there are students from all over the world at RISD, people may not know what goes in what trash bin in Providence. The trash rooms in 15 Westminister often cause confusion for some students because there is no consistency. The trash and recycling bins look the same and the only indication of which bin is which is a vinyl label on the wall. Students still feel confused with the colorful labels on the composting bin in Portfolio Cafe. Plastic bags have been banned in Providence since November but students still throw personal waste in plastic bags into the trash bin. As an art and design school, RISD students are using multiple art supplies in all departments everyday. Sadly we couldn't find a trash or recycling bin suitable for many of these materials. There are no clear descriptions or notifications on how





we should handle such materials after using them in projects.

“College life is too short to waste.”

We appeal for greater refinement of a waste-sorting and recycling system:

- Collaborate with RIRRC to educate students about trash and recycling sorting policy in Providence, RI
- Add materials introduction & training sections to studios and shops
- Create physically visible recycling & composting bins
- Redesign trash can systems in on-campus residences

3

LONG-TERM GOALS

Contribute to better expressing and communicating to the challenges of climate change

Communities are protesting for policy changes, scientists are staying in the lab researching future possibilities; as designers it is our responsibility to build a better communicating bridge and offer reasonable and understandable solutions. Studying at RISD, we don't want to just research and create work, but also to address the challenges of climate change through art and design.

Built on the current curriculum, the RISD Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies program and the Teaching and Learning Lab, students need to learn the skills of better understanding and being understood, the skills of working in interdisciplinary communities with artists, designers, scientists and educators.



We Appeal for RISD to become a leader in infusing sustainability into everyday campus life:

- **Complete elimination of Single-Use Plastics and other Non-Renewables**
- **No materials unsafe for humans or the environment permitted on campus**
- **Report consumptions and wastes at all on-campus stores and facilities**
- **On Campus Carbon Footprint Calculator (a new module in RISD App)**
- **Fund or subsidize Student work around Sustainability (similar to health-fund and materials-fund)**

RISD NEXT-SUS: 2020-2027 SUSTAINABILITY CONTRIBUTORS

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