Enhancing UCLA Athletic Event Sustainability Through Development of Comprehensive Green Templates

Stakeholders: Kayla Shirey, Derek Doolittle
Team leaders: Jacob Gerigk, Zachary Alter
Team members: Kate Minden, Sarina Levin, Jonah Eisen, Amber Lam
Research Questions

- What are the most effective methods to achieve sustainability in UCLA Athletics programs?
- How can we implement and create guidelines for green sporting events at UCLA?
Significance

- 22 NCAA Division I Varsity teams and over 40 club sports
- Lacking in established sustainability practices
- Massive potential for improvement
  - Multiple areas can be targeted
Goals

1. Gather concrete data regarding waste produced at athletic events at UCLA.
2. Create comprehensive templates for how UCLA Athletics can become more sustainable.
3. Incorporate UCLA club sports into sustainability efforts.
4. Spread awareness of the need for sustainability in athletics & foster student athlete/attendee involvement within UCLA athletics.
Student Survey

- 5 question survey
- 225 respondents
- Key takeaways
  - Students are moderately concerned about the environmental impacts of athletic events
  - 86.7% of students are interested or extremely interested in sustainable athletic events
  - 89.3% of students would pay at least $1 extra per concession item for sustainable packaging
Pauley Pavilion Waste Audit

- Pac-12 Zero Waste Basketball Game
  - Over 1,500 pounds of waste generated
  - 94.7% diversion rate
  - Won Most-Improved subcategory
- Eye-opening findings about waste produced by concessions
Easton Stadium Waste Audit

- Set up system of labeled and unlabeled waste receptacles
- Sorted through trash bags to determine percentage of contamination at each station
Example Templates
Challenges

- Scheduling complications and finding the appropriate contacts within ASUCLA
- Structuring templates -- general enough, yet sport specific

Future Challenges:

- Template implementation
- Where to send leftover food
What the future of SAR Green Games looks like

- Meet with ASUCLA to switch to compostable-ware and reducing landfill-material items
- Ensuring every facility on campus is equipped with consistent waste receptacles
- Establishing permanent sustainability positions within Athletics and the student-athlete body
- Incorporate our principles into club sports
- The future is bright -- there is great potential
A Quote from Kayla

2019 Green Gala Sustainability Advocate Award Winner, UCLA
Associate Director of Athletic Operations,
Kayla Shirey

“[Our project] was overdue and provided the much needed data to help make changes at our events. The waste audits were great examples of how operationally there needs to be systems in place to give the event a chance to be zero waste/sustainable.

Education is a key component and it starts with the in-house departments making conscious decisions about what products are being used and available for guests.

I think this project gives us a solid foundation for what we need to change internally to reach our goal of being a more sustainable department, not only on event day but in our day to day. I think there are a lot of opportunities for future SAR teams to make great progress within athletics!”
The End

Thank you to everyone who helped along the way!

Questions?