



# Fall 2018 - Spring 2019 Year-End Report

## Key Takeaways

Waste Watchers (WW) expanded programming by staffing 4x as many events as the previous year, and received the Institute Golden Beaver Award.

## Introduction - Who We Are

Waste Watchers (WW) is a student-led program for reducing waste contamination and fostering a sustainable culture on campus. MIT faces high levels of waste stream cross-contamination, which causes waste disposal services to send recyclable and compostable material to the trash. Our sustainable solution is to train students on the details of MIT's waste disposal system and pay them to staff campus events. WWs help individuals dispose of waste in the correct stream, decreasing contamination levels while educating the MIT community.

## Progress Summary

### Accomplishments

- Staffed 8 events
- Received Golden Beaver Group Institute Award

### Program Logistics

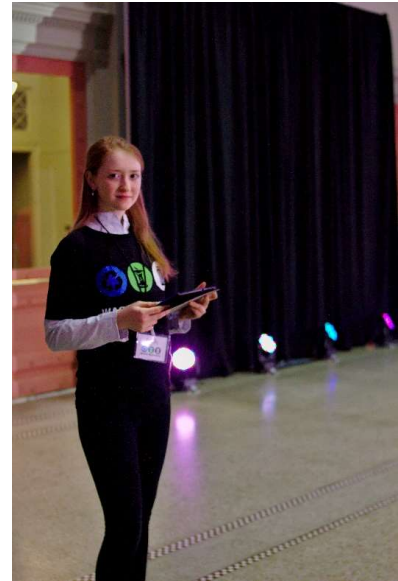
- Selected and transitioned new student leaders for next semester
- Established direct deposit payments via Atlas
- Adjusted trainings to reflect new recycling rules
- Implemented methods to transfer funds from sponsors both internal and external to MIT
- Transitioned to departmental group under the Department of Facilities with Ruth Davis as MIT Staff Program Supervisor
- Increased visibility by reaching out to on-campus event planners and presenting at conferences off campus

## Awards

**MIT Golden Beaver Institute Award:** Awarded at the 2019 MIT Institute Award Convocation. “This award is presented to student organizations, living groups, dorms, or teams that show a strong organizational structure or government, that provide outstanding programming, and that have a significant impact on campus life at MIT. Recipients will have shown dedication to continually improving their group and enhancing the campus environment.”

## Outreach

- **MIT Office of Sustainability** - WW attended the Sustainability Connect Symposium and presented the program in a round table discussion to help answer the question: “What sustainable things are going on around campus?”
- **Brandeis Student Sustainability Leadership Symposium (SSLS)** - WW presented “Waste Watchers: Reducing Waste Contamination at MIT” at SSLS, which is a conference for students in the New England region to present their sustainability initiatives and participate in discussions across universities.
- **Website ([web.mit.edu/waste-watchers](http://web.mit.edu/waste-watchers)):** The website was created to help advertise WW.



## Program Improvements

- **Sponsorship Funding Model:** Developed a model to support the program using donations from sponsors to fund smaller events who cannot afford to pay WW’s on their own.
- **Tablets:** Purchased five tablets to collect waste stream data during events, and take qualitative notes about relevant interactions with attendees.
- **New Data Collection System:** Developed a web-based application to substitute the previous data collection system, which was a Google Sheets program that itself replaced an initial pen-and-paper approach. Web app features include increased operating speed and automatic uploads to data hosted on Google drive.
- **Name Tags:** Bought expo markers for reusable dry erase name tags, to reduce hassle and waste.
- **T-shirts:** Designed and purchased shirts to increase visibility and ethos of WW on campus and at events.

## Events in 2018-2019

| Event   | Event Planned By     | # WW Hours | Selected Comments  |
|---|----------------------|------------|--|
| 1. MIT Career Fair (300 attendees)              | CF Directors         | 6.0        | “Started interesting conversations with employers in visiting companies” |
| 2. Trashion (75 attendees)                      | UA Sustainability    | 2.0        | Have a great picture of fierce Emily as a WW                             |
| 3. Winterfest (1,000 attendees)                 | Institute Events     | 3.0        |  |
| 4. Student Center / Stata Lunch (400 attendees) | MIT Facilities       | 7.0        |  |
| 5. Sloan Breakfast (100 attendees)              | Sloan Administration | 2.0        | “Samberg Center caters food - avoid staffing in future”                  |

|   |                                       |      |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|--|
| 6. Crossroads (150-200 attendees)             | Center for Transportation & Logistics | 4.5  |  |
| 7. Maseeh Lunch (400 attendees)               | Maseeh Gov                            | 4.0  | “Recycling symbol on compost bin confusing”                            |
| 8. One World Festival (4,000-6,000 attendees) | Institute Events                      | 11.5 | “Be clear with WW on which items go where so as not to confuse people” |

## Future Directions

### Events and Ongoing Collaborations

- Orientation: Office of the First Year
- MIT Climate Symposia, 2019-2020
- Commencement 2020
- MIT Center for Environmental Health and Science events
- Events with the Director of Open Space Direction
- MIT Solve 2020
- Events at the Media Lab
- Events with Research Laboratory of Electronics
- Events with Concourse



**Thank you to our sponsors for helping make this year a success!**

