**Sustainable Tabling Recommendations**

**President’s Sustainability Commission – Engagement Group**

This guide is intended to be a resource to departments, student groups, and organizations within Colorado State University who are tabling to engage students, faculty/staff, alumni, or community members. Colorado State University is a member of PLAN (the Post-Landfill Action Network). The initiative to join PLAN was championed by students in an effort to move the University towards the goals of being a zero waste campus. This means we must challenge ourselves to take into consideration the full life cycle of materials given away at tabling events. Often times, cheap one-time-use plastic objects are selected because they are affordable and easy to find but they often end up in our landfill, or worse, in our environment or waterways.

If you are giving out promotional materials, consider:

* Goods made from recycled, repurposed, compostable, or rapidly renewable materials (like 100% recycled plastic, bamboo, or 100% compostable items).
* Reusable goods (like reusable water bottles, cutlery, towels, or pens that are refillable).
* Energy efficient items (like solar chargers, LED lighting, or even automatic timers to reduce energy consumption).
* Goods made with Fair Trade labor to demonstrate that a living wage and fair working conditions were given to the worker who built it.
* An experience rather than a thing (like a drawing for tickets to a show, a gift certificate to a local restaurant, or a getaway weekend). Experiences can be a bigger draw to your table and studies show that experiences produce longer-lasting impact and memories than physical items.

If you are giving out food products, consider:

* Purchasing Fair Trade, USDA Organic, or another third party sustainable certification.
* Purchasing locally grown Colorado food/products (locally grown is often considered within 250 miles of our University or within the state of Colorado).

Finally, consider not giving away trinkets. Strong engagement through meaningful conversation or a game can often be your best tool in getting your message across. Students may lose a pen or free water bottle but an opportunity to engage and/or learn is more valuable.