

# DREAM GREEN

# SUSTAINABILITY

SPRING 2022



## NEW SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE KCC PLASTIC REDUCTION PLAN

Plastic is a unique material with attributes that allow it to be used in a variety of applications. It is often lightweight, durable, usually non-reactive, waterproof and cheap. For most of us, it has an almost constant place in our lives. Even those who try to minimize or cut plastic from their lives are likely to come into contact with it every day. However, the overuse of disposable plastic items is a major problem with potentially severe environmental consequences to the air, water, wildlife, soil and human health. There is a strong and well-documented need for society to greatly reduce the amount of plastic that is produced, used, and discarded.

Kingsborough Community College is committed to reducing or eliminating the purchase and use of various single-use plastics by switching to more environmentally friendly and sustainable alternatives. This commitment is aligned with the CUNY Board of Trustees Single-Use Plastic resolution adopting to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul's Legislation @6815/A 7564 that requires CUNY campuses to encourage the elimination of the use of single use plastic items. In April, the KCC Sustainability Council convened to create a Plastics Reduction Plan for the campus. The Plan identified waste streams, task areas and specific plastic products that will be substituted with compostable, biodegradable or more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Starting in Fall 2022, solutions to reduce or eliminate plastic waste will be implemented in our food service operations, catered events, science laboratories, vending machines, and facility maintenance activities. These solutions include elimination of plastic eating utensils and bags, minimizing the use of single use plastic water bottles, placing better controls on the use of plastic items used in the science labs, promotion of the water bottle refilling stations across the campus, improvement of the recycling program, and educational outreach programs about our efforts to reduce plastic waste.

## INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus Pandemic has forced all of us to adapt our plans for, well, everything. That being said many of the sustainability initiatives Kingsborough Community College (KCC) implemented prior to 2020 are still in place and we are moving forward with a major new initiative to reduce plastic waste on campus.

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The targets and goals of the plan include:

- ▲ **Plastic Water Bottles:** To reduce the use of single-use plastic containers for drinking, additional water bottle refilling stations have been installed across the campus, and an educational campaign will be done to promote their use and educate the community about the need to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles.
- ▲ **Recycling:** The KCC recycling program for plastic bottles, metal cans, paper, and food waste will be improved and expanded. Additional recycling bins and signage will be deployed across campus, and an educational campaign will be done to inform the campus community about their use and how to properly recycle.
- ▲ **Science Labs:** To reduce the use of plastic lab materials, the Biological Science Department has replaced plastic transfer pipettes with glass dropper bottles, implemented new lab procedures designed to reduce the use of disposable plastic materials, and is researching alternatives to all single-use plastic lab materials.
- ▲ **Balloons:** Student Life will reduce or eliminate the use of plastic balloons by using non-plastic alternatives such as paper bunting or reusable balloons.
- ▲ **Vending Machines:** Kingsborough is working with CUNY Central to develop a plan to reduce the single use plastics generated by Canteen products.

## KCC PLASTIC REDUCTION PLAN (CONTINUED)

- ▲ **Catering:** Catering vendors will be required to eliminate or reduce the use of non-plastic single use products for utensils, plates, beverages, plastic wrap and food containers.
- ▲ **Campus Food Services (Panda House):** Many of the cups, containers, and bags used by Panda House are already made of paper or a non-plastic material. KCC will continue to work with Panda House to find alternatives to single-use plastic items for eating utensils, Grab and Go items, salad containers and catering events.
- ▲ **Plastic Bags:** Buildings & Grounds is researching biodegradable alternatives to plastic bags for trash disposal. Additionally, the number of trash bags used for garbage will be reduced through improvements to the recycling program.



Eliminating single-use plastic will require both individual action and collective effort. The College asks all campus entities and individuals to try to make reasonable efforts to avoid using single-use plastics on College property where alternatives are available, and participate in recycling and composting initiatives. This will not be easy, but it is important. Working together as community, we can do our part to make a significant impact in tackling the problem of plastic pollution. We can do this!



The Kingsborough Art Museum (KAM) presented: A solo exhibition of photographs and installations that addressed the environmental effects of our dependence on plastics on April 21 – May 18, 2022.

The Kingsborough Art Museum announced its exhibition, Barry Rosenthal: Convenience & Conveyance. The exhibition, was on view from April 21 to May 18, it included some twenty-five photographs and installations. A self-described “urban anthropologist,” Rosenthal collects, sorts, and photographs plastic objects found along the waterways of New York City. Arranged in groupings not unlike eighteenth- and nineteenth-century natural history illustrations, the collections offered viewers not only an aesthetic sampling of the plastic-laden environmental legacy we are leaving for future generations, but also an unsettling reflection of ourselves and our seemingly endless desire for convenience and instant gratification. Rosenthal's work brings attention to the crucial issue of pollution in the world's oceans.



Born in Massachusetts, Rosenthal attended the Dayton Art Institute in Ohio. After pursuing street photography and commercial portraiture for a number of years, the artist turned his lens and attention to details found in natural forms such as ferns and grasses; noticing how the landscapes he photographed often shared space with unnatural forms—plastic cups, containers, and utensils, lost or abandoned plastic toys—he began collecting these ocean-borne objects as would those artists and naturalists who once accompanied the transatlantic expeditions of noted explorers. Arranging these objects by color and other aesthetic considerations, he photographs them against a dark background that both isolates them as objects while uniting them as colors and forms (such as Sea Life, Fig. 1, above).

## KAM'S EARTH DAY EXHIBITION (CONTINUED)

It was one of these works, *Blue Ocean* (Fig. 2, right), that first brought him to national attention. More recently Rosenthal has created sculptural works—*Sea Wall*, a section of bulkhead constructed of straw permeated with found objects; a large *Sea Goddess* (Fig. 3, below), from blue rope and an abandoned life-size inflatable party doll; and a *Cabinet of Curiosities* that develops his interest in natural history and collecting. While visually and materially different from his photographic work, Rosenthal's aesthetic approach and environmental message remains clear. Rosenthal's works have been featured in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Foreign Policy*, *CBS News*, *The Weather Channel*, and other periodicals and media outlets. His photographs are in the permanent collections of a number of arts institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Springfield Museum of Fine Art, and the Black Gold Museum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Figure 3: Barry Rosenthal, *Sea Goddess*. Plastic, blue rope Photograph, 2022

### Kingsborough Art Museum

Since 1976 The Art Gallery at Kingsborough Community College, now the Kingsborough Art Museum, has been dedicated to providing students, faculty and staff at Kingsborough, along with the many communities that make up the borough of Brooklyn, art exhibitions of historical, regional, national or international importance that reflect the values and standards inherent to the Art Department curriculum. To mark its fortieth anniversary (Fall 2016), the gallery changed its name to the Kingsborough Art Museum to reflect its developing role as a cultural space for the Kingsborough community.



Figure 2: Barry Rosenthal, *Blue Ocean*. Photograph, 2012

### General Information

The Kingsborough Art Museum is located in the Arts & Sciences Building, on the campus of Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY, 11235. General museum hours are Monday-Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm during the regular college semesters; closed January, February, July, August, and all holidays recognized by the college. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Director, Brian Hack, at 718-368-4817. Please note that due to the pandemic, all visitors from outside the campus community must fulfill the vaccination/negative COVID PCR test requirements. **For more information, please visit [Visitor\\_Policy\\_Fall\\_2021.pdf \(cuny.edu\)](#)**

### Press Contact

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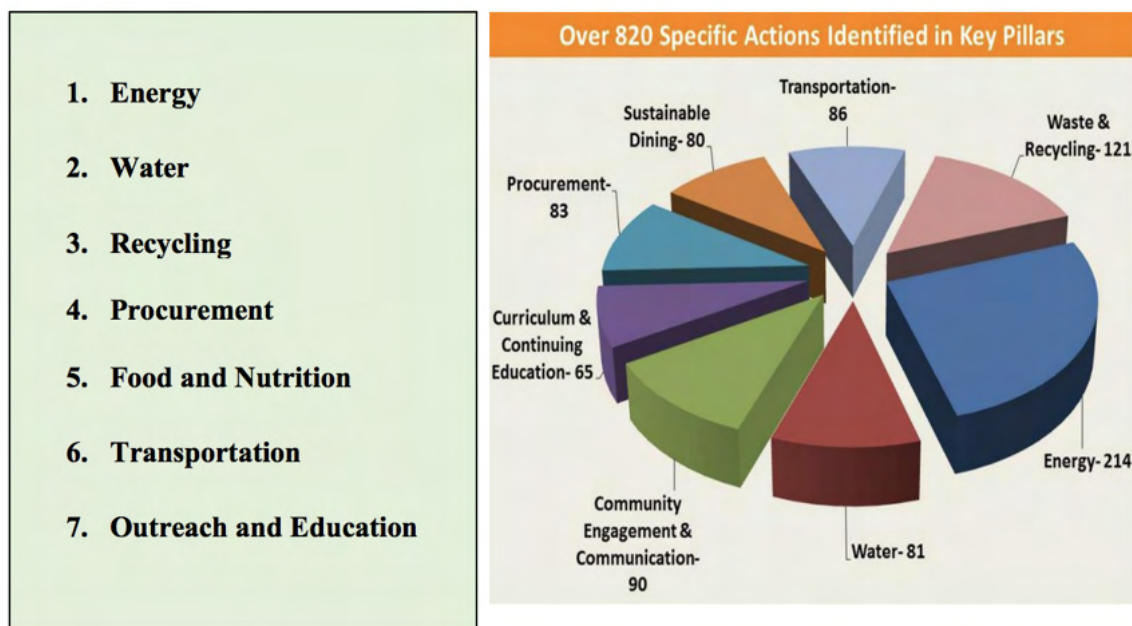
Website email link:

<https://kccartmuseum.org/convenience-%26-conveyance>



# ENVISIONING A GREENER FUTURE: ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY

Kingsborough Community College is committed to help foster a more sustainable future. The collaborative efforts of students, faculty and staff have helped KCC make significant progress to reduce our waste, become more energy efficient, and educate our campus community about how they can contribute to our sustainable goals. Goals for advancement are set forth in the Campus Sustainability 10-year Plan. This plan guides the college's green initiatives, using the seven pillars of sustainability set forth by the CUNY Sustainability Initiative and PlaNYC 2030 guidelines.



*The campus sustainability - 10 year plan can be viewed at:  
[kbcc.cuny.edu/administration/sustainability/homepage.html](http://kbcc.cuny.edu/administration/sustainability/homepage.html)*

## KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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