

Working on a team project in sustainability I learned about synthesis of knowledge and group cohesion. Working together on this capstone project I have had the opportunity to work with a group of people from totally different majors and interests. Because of our different backgrounds, we all have different sets of knowledge and thinking styles. Being on a team of people who think differently than I do has allowed me to see other sides to subject matter and think in new ways.

The Zero Waste project has allowed me to engage these new ways of thinking. When we began the project, I thought I knew just about everything there is to know about recycling. As a business major, I tend to think of things with a business point of view. Working together with people from majors like Anthropology, Marine Biology, and Environmental Engineering has given me insight into so many different schools of thought. My attitudes and views were enhanced by collaborating with people who think differently than I do. This collaboration has challenged ways that I have viewed things my entire life.

Looking back over the course of my sustainability dual major, I wish that others could get the sense of collaboration that I did from this experience. Sadly, there are few times in college when you get to work on projects with people from different disciplines than you. I would tell others to stay open-minded and to look for as many opportunities as they can where they are challenged to think in new ways and work together with people who know different things than them. Adapting your thinking can lead to conclusions and solutions to issues that go far beyond previous imagination.