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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NC State University Waste Reduction & Recycling Organics Division Wins Award from Carolina Recycling Association**

*Committed to Teaching Students About the Value of Composting*

RALEIGH, NC – The Carolina Recycling Association honored NC State University's Waste Reduction & Recycling Organics Division with a 2020 Annual Recycling Award!

Each year, the Carolina Recycling Association honors top performers that advance waste reduction and recycling in the Carolinas. The awards are open to individuals, companies, governments, schools, organizations, non-profits, and councils – projects and programs large and small. Nominations are reviewed and winners are selected by a committee of industry peers and scored in a variety of categories including amount of waste reduced, recycled or diverted, level of difficulty, and contribution to the industry as a whole.

Beginning in January 2019, the Zero Waste Wolves student organization began hosting paper towel education events across campus in order to reduce paper towels in the landfill bins of residence halls at NC State. During each educational interaction, students learned that paper towels could easily be composted at their hall's pizza box composting dumpster. The Zero Waste Wolves were able to create an easy way for students to be introduced to the concept of composting by highlighting a single item that is used by students every day. This sparked an interest around campus to further paper towel composting to other resident halls & apartments. This also helped inspire students to begin composting more than paper towels, but also food scraps!

Organics Diversion at NC State is committed to sustainability for operational efficiencies, student success, academic research, waste education, and community waste reduction through:

- Construction & operation of NC State's Compost Facility & Research Cooperative
- Advancing Zero Waste Events by marketing reusable and compostable supplies
- Promoting the student-driven Paper Towel Composting initiative
- Expanding Zero Waste Workplace buildings beyond traditional offices to now include research labs & classrooms in Schaub Food Science, a 98,389sqft building home to multiple departments that handle organic waste
- Refining campus education by utilizing building specific visuals, posters, and videos!

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