



**National Wildlife Federation**

Office of the President

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June 2, 2020

Ayodeji Oluwalana  
Iowa State University  
Recycling Coordinator  
Ames, IA 50014

Dear Recycling Coordinator Ayodeji Oluwalana:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and RecycleMania, I would like to thank you for participating in the 2020 RecycleMania competition. This was an unusual competition year and despite the unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19 and early campus closures, nearly 300 colleges and universities helped to reduce waste, collectively recycled, donated and composted 48.6 million pounds of waste and stopped more than 380 million plastic bottles from going to the landfill. Also, RecycleMania campuses prevented the release of 70,875 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E) into the atmosphere, which is equal to preventing the annual emissions from 15,047 cars.

The National Wildlife Federation recognizes that plastic pollution and mounting solid waste disposal are a critical threat to the world's wildlife and to human health. There are few solutions to this problem as important as engaging and educating America's future leaders on the dangers of solid waste and plastics build-up, and how the problem can be addressed through reduction of use, recycling and other efforts.

The RecycleMania competition is designed to educate and challenge students and staff at U.S. and Canadian campuses to compete for best in category by reducing and recycling the most waste during the spring competition timeframe. Close to 300 campuses in 43 U.S. states and Ontario competed in RecycleMania 2020, engaging 4.5 million students, faculty and staff. In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the program announced a new name - *Campus Race to Zero Waste*. The new name better reflects and reinforces the purpose of the program – to help campuses find pathways toward zero waste. To review the 2020 competition results, please go to the [2020 Scoreboard](#).

Your campus is a proven leader in sustainability and your role in tackling the plastic pollution and solid waste disposal issues in the U.S. and internationally is making a meaningful difference. Thank you for your participation in the 2020 competition, and your support of RecycleMania.

Sincerely,

Collin O'Mara  
President and CEO

cc: Stacy Wheeler, Founder/Board Chair, RecycleMania, Inc.

Uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.

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