

Fall 2024

Accelerating a Zero Waste Future: A Framework for Waste Stewardship

Using *Liberating Structures* to Create Harvard University's Zero Waste Framework

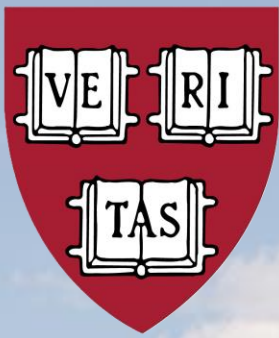
Tips, Techniques, and Strategies for
Facilitating Large Group Discussions



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Harvard By The Numbers

24,596

undergraduate and graduate students

20,667

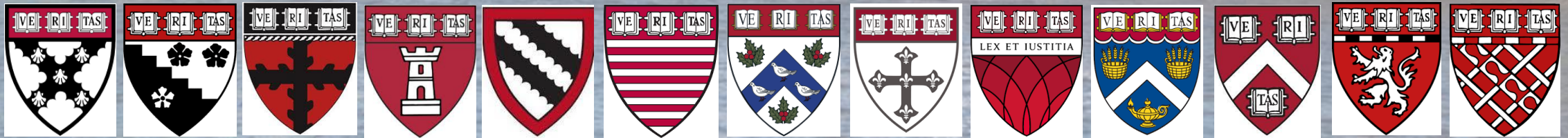
faculty and staff

600+ buildings

25 million square feet

R1 Research Institution

13 degree granting schools



Background



HARVARD
Campus Services

Waste Stewardship Steering Committee

Builds upon past 30 years
of Harvard Recycling

2023

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY Sustainability

Harvard University Sustainability Action Plan



Accelerating action to protect
the climate and environment,
advance a more equitable
society, and promote the
wellbeing of people.

Waste Stewardship Working Group

60+ person working
group, representatives
from all schools and
major units.

Jan 2024

Sustainability Action Plan released

Goal: develop a strategic zero-
waste plan by the end of 2024

Dec 2024

Waste Stewardship Framework completed

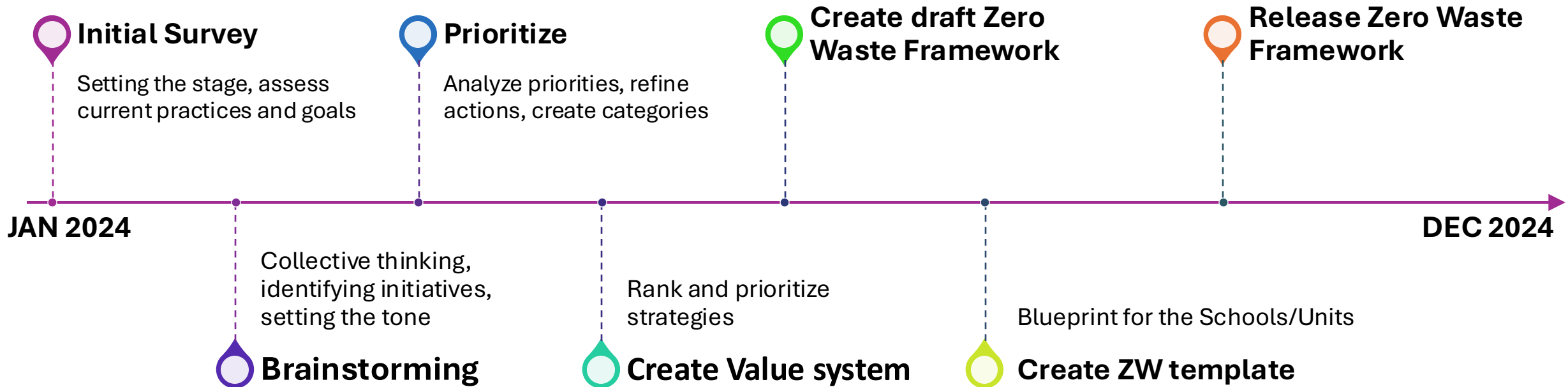
HARVARD
UNIVERSITY





Deliverable: University-Wide Zero Waste Framework

- Value and tracking system
- School-specific plan templates
- Other university-wide, systematic recommended changes

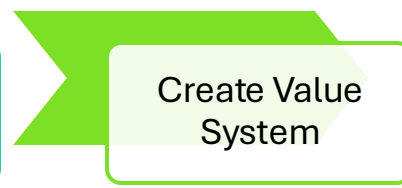
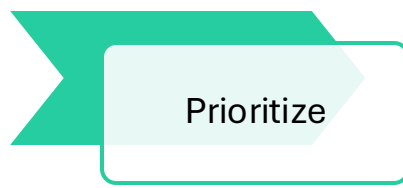
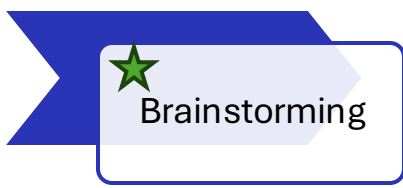
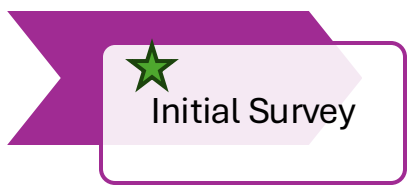




LIBERATING STRUCTURES

**“Simple rules to
unleash a culture
of innovation”**

- Transform how people interact and work together
- Designed to include everyone
- Ensures inclusive, high-quality engagement
- Participants were enabled to
 - think broadly
 - challenge assumptions, and
 - identify shared priorities

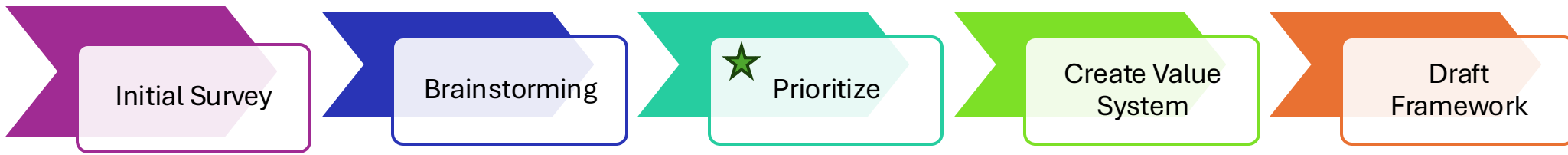


HARVARD
Campus Services

Meeting 1

- Pre-meeting survey to understand motivations
- Liberating Structures (LS)
 - Use of prompts
 - 1-2-4-ALL
 - 25/10 Crowd Sourcing





Meeting 2

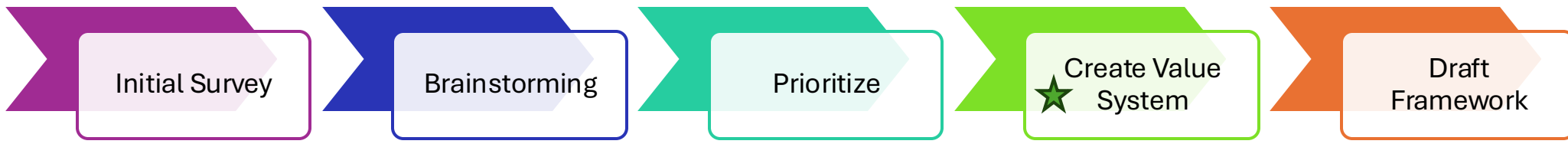
- Focus: Defining the Framework’s categories
- Activities:
 - Sticker voting
 - LS: Integrated Autonomy



Meeting 3 (virtual)

- Refining definitions
- Individual work -> Small group work





Meeting 4

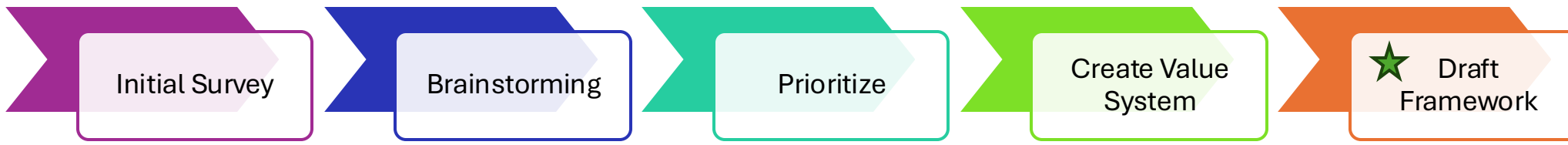
- Waste Stewardship Essentials
- Creating a Value system



WASTE STEWARDSHIP ESSENTIALS

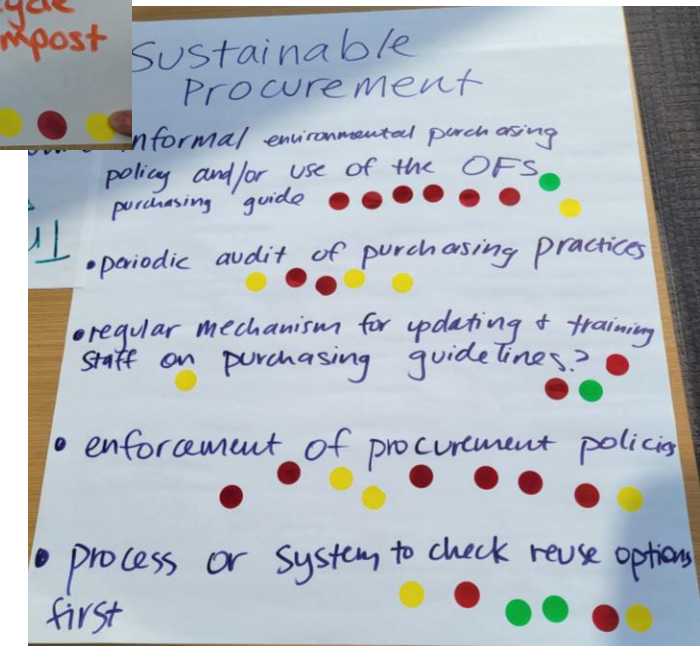
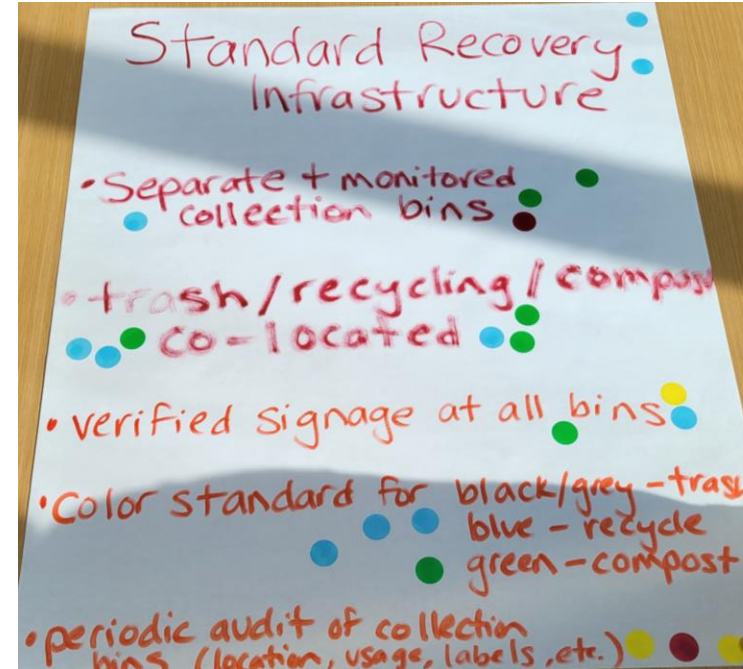
1. Standard Recovery Infrastructure
2. Sustainable Procurement Practices & Policies
3. Reuse Infrastructure
4. Education
5. Zero Waste Events
6. Tracking Waste Generation and Measuring Reduction
7. Institutionalize Waste Stewardship

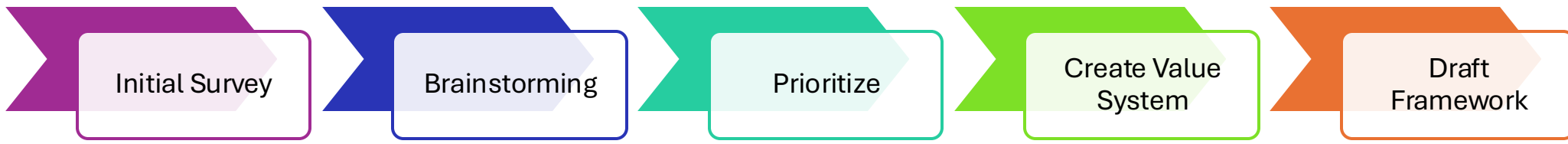




Meeting 5

- Supporting and Enabling folks to take action
- LS: What? So What? Now What?
- Baseline Assessment surveys

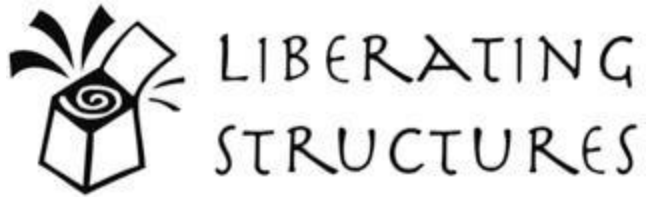




Meeting 6 - FINAL

Thank you
Acknowledgements
Celebration!





Some of the structures used:

1-2-4-ALL

25/10 Crowd Sourcing

15% Solutions

TRIZ

Integrated Autonomy

What? So What? Now What?

This working group and its leaders were incredibly well organized, engaging, thoughtful, and effective.

It was one of the most enjoyable working groups I've sat on for the University! I felt heard and loved the small-group joint discussions where many different perspectives were put forth, but it still all felt very collaborative.



I enjoyed the participatory nature of the meetings and the variety of activities to keep everyone engaged.

Very
engaging

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Thank you!

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