

STUDENT ASSEMBLY OF THE EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

7th SESSION, 2022-2023

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-08

A RESOLUTION

To Advocate for the Banning of Non-
Biodegradable Confetti on East Carolina
University's Campus

Primary Sponsor: Secretary Rutvi Sachania, Director Javier Limon

Cosponsor(s): Representative Kayla Cornett

First Reading: 10/05/2022

Referred to: University Affairs

Second Reading: 10/12/2022

1 *Be it resolved by the Student Assembly of the Student Government Association of East Carolina*
2 *University,*

3
4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE**

5
6 *This Resolution may be cited as the "ECU Confetti Ban Resolution"*

7
8 **SECTION 2. RESOLUTION DEFINITONS**

9
10 **WHEREAS,** The term "confetti" shall refer to all small, non-biodegradable pieces of paper,
11 plastic, mylar, or metallic material that may be thrown or launched into the air.

12
13 **SECTION 3. CONFETTI CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL DETRIMENT ON ECU'S**
14 **CAMPUS**

15
16 **WHEREAS,** East Carolina University (ECU) aims to be an environmentally conscious
17 University yet confetti is used during school-sponsored events and by soon-to-be
18 graduates on campus, and;

19
20 **WHEREAS,** Confetti that is not cleaned up and properly disposed of following its usage can
21 runoff into nearby storm drains, leading to pollution of local bodies of water, and;

22
23 **WHEREAS,** Traditional confetti, the most common type of confetti sold online and in-stores, is
24 made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other plastics, which can take about 1,000
25 years to degrade.¹ Its constant use on campus not only curtails the campus
26 appearance, but also harms the surrounding ecosystems and wildlife who may
27 ingest confetti waste from campus grounds, and;

28
29

30 **WHEREAS,** When these plastics do begin to break down into microplastics, they release toxic
31 chemicals that can cause issues such as digestive harms, infertility, hormonal
32 imbalance, metabolism interference, cancers, and more in the ecosystem’s
33 wildlife. This can result in further bioaccumulation of microplastics in our
34 surrounding wildlife, eventually making its way into our own food systems,² and;
35

36 **WHEREAS,** East Carolina University’s proximity to the Tar River, which flows for 215 miles
37 through 19 North Carolina counties into the Pamlico Sound,³ makes the use of
38 confetti a heightened risk of compromising this essential part of our ecosystem
39 and blue economy, and;
40

41 **WHEREAS,** East Carolina University’s Sustainability Mission states “As an institution that
42 prides itself on preparing leaders, it is imperative that ECU takes the initiative to
43 ensure that this university is able to prepare the next generation,” supporting the
44 assertion that it is the duty of students on campus to make environmentally-
45 conscious decisions and maintain a clean environment for the future of all
46 students, and;
47

48 **WHEREAS,** The issue of confetti litter on campus has produced a group advocating for the
49 banning of confetti on campus called “ECU No Confetti,” alongside a petition
50 signed by students to ban confetti use on campus, proving that this is a matter of
51 importance to the student body,⁴ and;
52

53 **WHEREAS,** College campuses across the country such as Texas State University and
54 California State University, Long Beach have already taken steps to limit the use
55 of confetti at commencement ceremonies,^{5 6} and;
56

57 **WHEREAS,** Additionally, there are a myriad of sustainable alternatives to confetti, such as
58 biodegradable confetti, dried flower petals, bubbles, hole-punched leaves, and
59 sparklers. The use of smoke bombs, photo editing, and champagne can also
60 provide more sustainable alternatives to non-biodegradable confetti.⁴
61

62 *Now, therefore, be it,*
63

64 **RESOLVED,** The Student Government Association (SGA) of East Carolina University endorses
65 the banning of non-biodegradable confetti on all of ECU’s campuses in addition to
66 promoting the use of sustainable alternatives in graduation photos and during
67 school-sponsored events, and;
68

69 *Be it, further,*
70

71 **RESOLVED,** Organizations and clubs across East Carolina University seeking to promote
72 sustainability are encouraged to use and make available the aforementioned
73 alternatives to non-biodegradable confetti, and;
74

74 *Be it, further,*
75

76 **RESOLVED,** The Student Government Association of East Carolina University recommends
77 and encourages organizations seeking to provide these alternatives for students to

78 apply for SGA funding if necessary to ensure that these materials are widely
79 available, and;
80

81 *Be it, further,*

82
83 **RESOLVED**, Upon passage, a copy of this legislation will be sent to Chancellor Dr. Phillip
84 Rogers, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Hardy, Associate Vice
85 Chancellor and Dean of Students Dr. Lynn Roeder, Sustainability Manager Chad
86 Carwein, and The East Carolinian.
87

88 **SECTION 4. DATE EFFECTIVE.**

89
90 This Resolution shall be effective upon its passage by a majority affirmative vote
91 of the Student Assembly and its signing by the Student Body President.
92
93

94 **Final Vote:** *Yea 19, Nay 4, Abstain 1*

95
96 **I hereby certify that this Motion was read and adopted in the Student Assembly of the East**
97 **Carolina University Student Government Association, this** *the 14th of October, 2022.*

98
99
100 **X** *Tyler West*
101 _____
102 Tyler West, Speaker of the Student Assembly

103 **WITNESSED:**
104 *[Signature]*
105 **X** _____
106 Rutvi Sachania, Student Body Secretary

107
108 Action Taken by the President: (ENACTED) (VETOED)

109
110 **I hereby signify my approval of this Motion as adopted by the Student Assembly of the East**
111 **Carolina University Student Government Association, this** *the 13th of October, 2022.*

112
113 **X** *Ryan Bonnett*
114 _____
115 Ryan Bonnett, Student Body President

115 **SOURCES**

- 116 ¹ <https://brightly.eco/blog/eco-friendly-confetti>
117 ² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7068600/>
118 ³ <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Conserving/documents/2015WildlifeActionPlan/Section-4-5-17-Tar-Pamlico-River-basin-1st-Draft.pdf>
119

120 ⁴ [http://www.piratemedial.com/theeastcarolinian/article_97c64402-48e8-11ec-8fb5-](http://www.piratemedial.com/theeastcarolinian/article_97c64402-48e8-11ec-8fb5-3b0ed93f551f.html)
121 [3b0ed93f551f.html](http://www.piratemedial.com/theeastcarolinian/article_97c64402-48e8-11ec-8fb5-3b0ed93f551f.html)
122 ⁵ [https://www.universitystar.com/opinions/if-they-throw-confetti-don-t-let-them-](https://www.universitystar.com/opinions/if-they-throw-confetti-don-t-let-them-walk/article_9b325ae7-6bad-515d-ab84-4ec156a97ce3.html)
123 [walk/article_9b325ae7-6bad-515d-ab84-4ec156a97ce3.html](https://www.universitystar.com/opinions/if-they-throw-confetti-don-t-let-them-walk/article_9b325ae7-6bad-515d-ab84-4ec156a97ce3.html)
124 ⁶ <https://www.csulb.edu/commencement/policies>