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Recycling & Waste Reduction Services

Recycling Findings

The city of Kansas City, Missouri conducted a survey of residents in the city's "urban" core to gather information about issues related to the city's curbside recycling program. A random phone sample of 411 residents was completed July 12-26, 2005.

The results showed that 90% of the people surveyed found it important to recycle. The two major reasons for this were 1) it helps the environment, and 2) it cuts down on landfill space.

Although most people thought recycling was important, only 69% of those surveyed currently had a recycling bin. The three most frequent answers for not having a recycling bin were 1) don't know where to get one, 2) too busy to

get a recycling bin, 3) not interested in participating in the program. 79% of those surveyed said their household participates in some type of recycling.

The most popular items recycled were plastic bottles 57%, newspapers 54%, and cardboard 50%.

The top three reasons residents don't recycle are 1) do not have a bin 2) do not think recycling is important 3) lack of information. Only one third of the residents surveyed said they were familiar with the city's recycling program.

Much like Kansas City, Kalamazoo's recycling program suffers due to lack of knowledge or education on the city's recycling

program. Like Kansas City most Kalamazoo residents feel it is important to recycle, but don't know how to go about obtaining a recycling bin or don't know the pick up day for their neighborhood.

If this is you, or someone you know...

For more information about Kalamazoo's recycling program or for a schedule on pick-ups contact:

Kalamazoo Public Works

kalamazoocity.org
(269) 337-8215

Or
R&WRS @ 387-8165

Information collected by:
ETC Institute
725 West Frontier
Olathe, Kansas
66061
(913) 829-1215

Expanded Plastics Recycling

Now Recycling #5, #6, and #7 Plastics in Kalamazoo!

Make a mental note to check the bottom of your plastic containers for the number five, six or seven before heading for the trash can. Kalamazoo will now accept #5, #6, and #7 plastics for recycling, in addition to #1 and #2, which have been accepted for years.

What exactly are #5, #6, and #7 plastics? Number five plastics are polypropylene, commonly known as butter tubs, yogurt cups, and ketchup bottles. Polystyrene is the scientific name for #6 plastics. Be careful not to include polystyrene foam with polystyrene plastics. Polystyrene foam must be kept separate for recycling. A typical plastic take-out cup from a fast food restaurant, like

Taco Bell, will be #6. Take-out clamshells, which are clear and plastic, are also #6. Foam clamshells must be kept separate. Plastics marked as "others" are #7 plastics, like Tropicana juice bottles.

There are a few pitfalls which may confuse the recycler. All #1 through #7 plastic recyclables must be a container, meaning bottles, jugs, cups, or tubs. Plastic bags, film, even plastic lids or caps are not recyclable. For example, a water bottle is recyclable but the cap is not. Also, a #4 plastic tub is recyclable, but a #4 plastic Meijer bag is not. Recycling is easy; just remember to put #1-#7 bottles, jugs, cups, or tubs in the glass, plastics, and metals bin.

For more information on what's recyclable, go to: www.pp.wmich.edu/rs/

*Did you know....
Past issues of the
newsletter are available
on-line at
www.pp.wmich.edu/rs
Click on Newsletters*



Office Recycling Reminder

Due to the number of desk side recycling bins on campus, students picking up the recycling will only pick up the large recycling bins. Please empty your desk side recycling bins in the large bin prior to the student's arrival.

For questions concerning your departmental day of recycling pick up contact R&WRS at 387-8165

Recycle Mania Program Expanded!

In January 2005, Western Michigan will once again be participating in Recycle Mania, a nationwide program started in February of 2001 by Ohio University and Miami (Ohio) University. Its purpose is to increase recycling in residence and dining halls on campus. WMU has participated in Recycle Mania for the past 3 winters. This program is undergoing changes to make it a campus-

wide competition. Beginning this year, we will participate in both the Per Capita Classic (our current competition) and the Recycling Rate competition, which is campus-wide and measures percent of material recycled compared to total trash generated.

The Recycling Rate competition will allow all students, faculty and staff to be involved. Since the material with the

greatest recycling impact is paper, including offices and classrooms will greatly increase the amount of material available for the competition. Participation of faculty, staff, and students is crucial to the success of this program

In the meantime, students living on campus are encouraged to recycle as much as possible. And the winner is...

Everyone!

WMU Recycles the Following:

Recycled Paper

- Business Cards
- Cardboard (Corrugated and cereal box-type)
- Catalogs (Paperback only)
- Computer Printouts
- Copier Paper
- Fax Paper
- File Folders
- Junk mail
- Journals and Magazines
- Newspaper
- Newsprint Pad Paper
- Office Stationery
- Pad and tablet Paper
- Post-it Notes

Polystyrene Foam

- Cups, Plates
- Furniture and Appliance Packaging
- Take-Out Clamshells
- Meat Trays
- Egg Cartons

Containers

- **Plastic Bottles (#1 - #7)**
- Milk Jugs
- Detergent Bottles
- Shampoo Bottles
- Margarine Tubs
- Water Bottles
- Yogurt Containers
- Salad Dressing Bottles
- Food Cans
- Aluminum Foil
- Beverage Cans
- Metal Lids (from jars)
- Pie Tins
- Glass Bottles and Jars



Other Recyclables

- Batteries (campus generated only)
- Empty Aerosols
- Scrap metal
- Overhead Transparencies
- Electronics (campus generated only)

NOT RECYCLABLE!

- Pizza Boxes
- Plastic Bags
- Wrappers from reams of paper
- Laundry Baskets
- Frozen Food Packaging
- 12-pack Packaging
- Paper Drink Cups
- Candy Wrappers
- **Anything that is "gross"**

Recycling and Waste Reduction Services unfortunately does not have automated equipment. Please remember that when filling the bins students must be able to lift the bin to shoulder height in order to empty. If you cannot lift it, we can't either.

**Do your part:
RECYCLE!**

Frozen Food boxes are not recyclable due to wax coating on boxes.



*Did you know.....
Batteries are a hazardous waste if they are not recycled?
Contact Recycling & Waste Reduction Services for a pick-up.*

Reminders...

Office Hours:
Sept - May
Monday – Friday
8am-2:30pm
Jun – Aug
Monday –
Thursday
8am-4pm

All cardboard boxes must be flattened before being recycled.

Pizza boxes are **not** recyclable.

Hardcover books and catalogs are **not** recyclable.

New Materials
We can now recycle all plastic bottles and tubs, #1-#7. No lids, bags, film, or foamed materials.

A list of recyclable materials is on page 3 of this newsletter.

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Contamination

One of the major problems that the Recycling department deals with on a regular basis is contamination. Some people throw candy wrappers in the recycle bin because they think it is paper. Others feel they are doing a good deed when they place a plastic bottle in the paper recycling bin. Even though the bottle is recyclable, it is still considered a contaminate because it is not placed in the proper bin.

Please note,

there are separate bins for paper as well as glass, metals, and plastics in office buildings and residence halls. Each needs to be placed in its designated bin in order to be recycled correctly.

This problem can easily be eliminated with just a little extra attention to what exactly you are attempting to recycle, and where the proper place to recycle is.

This year the R&WRS has really focused on how we can make recycling at

Western easier for faculty, staff, and students. Our hope is that by carefully labeling all recycling receptacles we will decrease the rate of contamination on campus and increase the amount of recycling. Proper recycling habits will help us be even more successful in Recycle Mania 2006!

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WMU RECYCLES!