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Interesting Facts

As of 2001, 45% of all paper disposed in the United States was recycled. The goal of 50% has not yet been met. Germany recycles 70–80% of its paper and cardboard.

Twenty years ago, only one curbside recycling program existed in the United States. By 1998, 9,000 curbside programs and 12,000 recyclable drop-off centers had sprouted up across the nation.

Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents a 64% energy savings, a 58% water savings, and 60 pounds less of air pollution!

Recycling & Waste Reduction Services

Residence Halls: Things Are A-Changin'

This year there has been a pleasant surprise for many students living in the residence halls this year. With the addition of Doug Carney overseeing the cleaning and maintenance of the buildings, things are looking up. Walking into some of the newly remodeled halls is both refreshing and exciting.

Appearance is not the only thing on Mr. Carney's agenda. Recycling has become a major component of the changes in campus living. With the closing of the trash rooms, students are now responsible for removing their own waste from their halls. Recycling bins were purchased for each room so students can take the trash *and* recycling out to their respective dumpsters.

For recycling to be a part of life in the residence halls, a lot must be done in terms of student outreach. There is a concern that students will use the recycling bins as a second trash container. In order to show how easy it is to recycle, posters indicating recycling procedures on campus are displayed inside residence halls.

RAs will also help by

encouraging and exemplifying recycling on their floors. If new students at WMU recycle from the beginning of their careers, awareness and use of the recycling program here will likely increase significantly.

Recent changes have also been made to the carry out dining program in the residence halls. While some may see it as an inconvenience, less trash will be generated over the course of the year. Students must order their meal online during limited hours and they will be allowed to have only one drink with each carry out meal.

To wrap up the year, a program called Trash-to-Treasures is in the works. When students are moving out of their rooms at the end of the spring semester, many have furniture or other useful items they do not want to take home. Rather than tossing them in a dumpster or simply ditching them somewhere, students can donate their "treasures" to the Trash-to-Treasures sale. The proceeds will be donated to the highly regarded non-profit, United Way.

A Brief History of Recycling

Have you ever wondered when and how recycling began? How about some history:

-500 BC: The world's first municipal dump formed in Athens Greece. Waste had to be disposed of at least a mile away from the city.

-1388: English Parliament bars waste dispersal in public waterways and ditches.

-1690: Rittenhouse Mill opened in Philadelphia, PA to make paper from recycled fibers.

-1810-1869: Disposable metal and plastic packaging becomes more common.

-1897: The first recycling center was established in New York City.

-1842-1898: Waste disposal proved to be a major issue. Incinerators, dumps, and compost facilities were set up in urban areas worldwide.

-1911: NYC citizens were producing 4.6 pounds of refuse a day.

-1920s: Landfills became a popular way to dispose of waste.

1948: Fresh Kills landfill is opened on Staten Island, New York. It becomes the world's largest city dump. Along with the Great Wall of China, it is the only man-made structure visible from space.

-1965: The first federal solid waste management laws are enacted in the US.

-1968: US aluminum industry begins recycling discarded aluminum products, from beverage cans to window blinds.

-1972: The first buy-back centers for recyclables are opened in Washington State.

-1974: First curbside recycling bins used in University City, Missouri, for collecting newspapers.

-1986: The city of San Francisco meets its goal of recycling 25% of its commercial and residential waste.

-1988: Current #1-#7 plastic numbering system comes to being.

-1990: McDonald's stops using Styrofoam packaging. Both Coca-Cola and Pepsi began using recycled plastic in their bottles.

-1991: Federal municipal solid waste landfill criteria required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment.

-2000: Recycling rates steadily increased during the 1990s (along with total waste generated) to 30% recycled.

source: <http://www.tufts.edu/tuftsrecycles/USstats.htm>

*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 and budget cuts reducing the recycling staff, students picking up the recycling will only pick up the large recycling bins. Please empty your desk side recycling bins into 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.

Recycling at Waldo Stadium

With the large number of canned and bottled beverages consumed at football games, this fall we want to recycle the empties. New light and transparent bins, called "Canables", are being used to collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles at sporting events.

The game on September 8 marked the debut of the new bins. Unfortunately, they were not quite as successful as had been expected. Some of the bins were contaminated by trash and food waste. Others were not utilized by fans.

Twenty "Canables"

were set up at Waldo Stadium and at the pre-game festivities. The goal is to collect all bottles and cans for recycling and reduce our trash costs.

With your help, we can recycle both at work *and* at play here at Western!

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 a wax coating protecting the food.



Did you know.....
It is **illegal** in Michigan to dispose of beverage containers in a landfill that are less than one (1) gallon and contained a carbonated beverage? Do your part: recycle bottles and cans.

Reminders...

Office Hours:
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.

Any item that is
not specifically
accepted in the
recycling bin is a
contaminate.
We send
contaminated
recyclables to
the landfill.
Please keep our
recyclables
clean.

Cryptogram Answer:
The waste
management hierarchy
is Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle!

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Reminder: Recycle Mania

Last spring WMU participated in Recycle Mania, a nationwide recycling competition among universities to see who could recycle the most.

Over ten weeks, the recycling collected in offices, residence halls, dining halls, and on-campus apartments was weighed and then divided by the number of faculty, staff and students at WMU.

Recycle Mania is a

tough competition. We are planning to do better than ever this year, but it all depends on you!

Last year the results showed that WMU has plenty of room for improvement: overall, we came in 40th out of 45 schools, recycling 14.06%. We came in 71st out of 87 schools in per capita recycling at 10.98 lbs/person. Let's do even better this year!

Cryptogram

FVN RWJFN AWUWQNTNUF VYNLWLAVH YJ LNCSAN,
LNSJN, LNAHABN!

Can you decipher the code? (Answer at left.)

Hints:

-A tried and true method for making the world a better place

-Part of it is a common catch-phrase

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WMU RECYCLES!