

Table of Contents

1. Recycle Mania 2006
2. Benefits of Recycling
2. Waste Reduction Is the First Priority
3. Lists of Recyclables
4. Successful Recycling in Dining Cafes
4. Reminders

Interesting Recycling Facts

The US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee estimates the amount of lost energy from throwing away aluminum and steel cans, plastic and glass bottles, newsprint and corrugated cardboard packaging is equivalent to the annual output of 15 medium-sized coal power plants.

If Americans recycled half of our newsprint every year, we'd need 3,200 fewer garbage trucks to collect municipal waste. (Uncle John's 4-Ply Bathroom Reader)

Recycling & Waste Reduction Services

Recycle Mania 2006

January 29 – April 8, 2006

Recycle Mania is a friendly competition among college and university recycling programs across the United States. This year there are 93 schools participating, including four schools from the Mid-American Conference (MAC): WMU, Ball State, Ohio and Miami. During 10 weeks, schools compete in several categories to see which campus can either collect the most recyclables (by weight) per person or net the highest recycling rate. WMU is participating in both competitions.

Benefits of Recycle Mania:

- Create excitement and increase awareness of waste reduction and recycling.
- Increase recycling participation by faculty, staff and students.
- Reduce the amount of waste generated on campus by promoting the 3R's: reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Unify the efforts of various campus entities, from facilities departments to student groups.
- Provide national recognition and publicity for participation.

- Provide networking opportunities with colleges and universities facing similar circumstances.

WMU needs participation by everyone from administrators and faculty to staff and students to make a good showing since both competitions are scored based on campus population. By recycling a larger volume of our waste material, we improve in both competitions by reducing the amount of trash sent to the landfill.

Scores for selected schools in the Per Capita Classic (pounds/person) competition will be posted in each residence hall lobby. Complete scores for both competitions are available at www.recyclemaniacs.org under Results.

Remember to recycle all paper, cardboard, magazines, bottles, cans, jars, jugs and tubs. All common recyclables are counted. Contaminated recyclables are disposed as trash, so they count against our score.

Keep up the good work and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle your waste materials.

Benefits of Recycling

There are many great reasons to participate in the WMU recycling programs. Several reasons are common knowledge: 1) reduces the amount of material placed in the landfill; 2) reduces costs associated with waste disposal; and 3) good public relations. But, did you know there are other economic and environmental benefits to recycling?

1. The National Recycling Coalition's National Recycling Economic Information Study concludes that for every job in collecting recyclables, 26 are created in processing the materials and manufacturing the new products.
2. According to the Aluminum Association,

a recycled aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as few as 60 days after collection, proving that the markets are functioning efficiently.

3. The US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee estimates that increasing the recycling rate of aluminum and steel cans, plastic and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated cardboard by 10% would save enough energy to heat 7.5 million American homes, provide electricity for 2.5 million Americans, and save about \$771 million in avoided costs for crude oil.

Waste Reduction Is the First Priority

Most people think of Recycling & Waste Reduction Services as the recycling department. However, there is much more to waste management than recycling. WMU generates a certain amount of waste each day. That material can be placed in a trash can or a recycling can. That receptacle is then emptied and the material transported to the proper handling facility.

But, what if you didn't generate the waste to put it in the disposal container? Then the custodial or recycling staff would not need to empty the container. The dumpsters holding the materials outside could be reduced in size or eliminated. The transportation to the proper facility would also be eliminated. And disposal costs would be reduced proportionately.

In the hierarchy

of waste management, the first step is to reduce waste, or not generate it in the first place. The next step is to reuse materials such as coffee mugs, table service, food containers and the blank side of scrap/waste paper. Disposable items increase our waste disposal costs. After the useful life of the material is complete, then it should be recycled or disposed, not before.

*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.

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!

12 pack boxes are not recyclable due to wax coating on the 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.

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.

Successful Recycling In Dining Cafes

Western Michigan University has seven campus dining cafes. During this academic year, Recycling & Waste Reduction Services has been taking a closer look at these cafes in an attempt to increase the recycling rate.

Using surveys and small focus groups, R&WRS was able to identify several issues that hinder the success of recycling in these cafes. The most common problem cited was simply not having enough time, but this is typically

students purchasing items before class and therefore, not using the recycling system in the cafe. The students that stay and eat are the ones that affect the success rate. Students also addressed the clarity of labeling. Students need a better understanding of what is recyclable here at Western. Many students claim that if they are unsure about where to recycle an item, they simply discard it as trash.

R&WRS is focusing on ways to alleviate such

problems by putting lids on all recycling bins to create a visual indication for what can be recycled in the bin and help cut back on improper recycling, clearer signage, and educating the students, faculty, and staff of proper recycling habits.

Hopefully, with our efforts and help from you we can increase our rate of successful recycling at the on campus dining cafes.

Western Michigan University
Recycling & Waste Reduction Services
1903 W. Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5324

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Permit No. 478

Editor

Carolyn Noack

Recycling & Waste
Reduction Manager

(269) 387-8165

carolyn.noack@wmich.edu

www.pp.wmich.edu/rs

Editorial Assistant

Erin Kennedy

Evandr5137@sbcglobal.net

Printed on recycled and salvaged paper.

WMU RECYCLES!