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Interesting Facts

Recycling helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions that affect global climate. In 1996, recycling of solid waste in the United States prevented the release of 33 million tons of carbon into the air—roughly the amount emitted annually by 25 million cars! (tufts.edu)

The United States produces approximately 220 million tons of garbage each year according to the Environmental Protection Agency. This is equivalent to burying over 82,000 football fields six feet deep in compacted garbage. (Mississippi DEQ)

Approximately 88% less energy is used by producing plastic from plastic as opposed to plastic from the raw materials of oil and gas. (Mississippi DEQ)

Recycling & Waste Reduction Services

RecycleMania Is Back!

RecycleMania started in January, kicking off Western's fourth year of involvement in the competition. It began as a two-school competition in 2001 between Ohio University and Miami University. This year the competition has expanded to 200 schools in 42 states and the District of Columbia! This is exciting because not only is there more competition, but more awareness of how important and easy it is to recycle on college campuses. Schools from across the country are participating, from University of Michigan, to Harvard, Tulane, and The University of California. From all over the country, it's obvious recycling is something for schools to be proud of and they are competing to see which school is the best!

The Recycle Mania competition runs January 28 through April 7, 2007. The competition is a way to show our competitive edge and encourage people to think about the seemingly endless stream of paper and bottles that passes through our hands each day.

Over the past three years of participating in the competition, WMU has been recycling more. To

everyone who makes recycling on campus part of their daily lives, thanks, and please encourage others to recycle. It's good for the Earth and for Recycle Mania.

This year WMU is participating in two competitions: the Per Capita Classic and Waste Minimization. The Per Capita Classic is the original RecycleMania competition, which measures the amount of recyclables collected per person. Waste Minimization focuses on which school collects the least amount of recycling AND trash per person. Please make note of the things WMU Recycles (on page 3), and keep in mind that every piece of paper or bottle you recycle helps us win!

Feel free to see how WMU is shaping up by looking at the RecycleMania website at <http://www.recyclemania.org>. Click on the Who's Winning icon and then the competition name.



Surplus Supply Database

Beginning this spring the recycling department is offering a great opportunity for departments to reduce waste or clutter and help one another save money!

We are proud to introduce the new Surplus Supply program, which allows the donation of any extra office supplies, which other departments can request. Supplies up for grabs are things like paper clips, rubber bands, pens, pencils, 3-ring binders, pads of paper, and other common office supplies.

The request forms are located on the R&WRS website: <http://www.pp.wmich.edu/rs>. The site should be available around April 1, 2007. There will be two forms: one for material requests and one for donations. Student drivers will pick up donations and deliver the supplies, making this an easy and useful resource for all.

Many of us have excess pens, pencils or paper clips. Let us help clear it out and save some money in the process.

End Contamination: Sort It Right

One of the greatest challenges aside from actually getting people to recycle on campus is contamination (an incorrect material in the recycling bin).

When a recycling bin is contaminated, it must be emptied as trash. Not only does this defeat the hard work done by others who want to recycle, it wastes the

University's money. We pay more to put trash in the landfill than to recycle.

The Earth's resources are important to consider since we rely on them in our daily lives. Recycling has become an important part of the conscious effort to curtail waste and promote active participation in resource

use.

The good news is that in the 15 years WMU has been recycling, contamination has decreased. However, it is still a major concern, so keep on improving. Together we can end contamination! Call R&RWS if you have questions about what can be recycled.

Electronics Recycling

WMU has an extensive electronics recycling program. Most electronics contain heavy metals and other materials that make them unsuitable for disposal in a landfill.

So, how does WMU handle electronics? Departments wishing to dispose of unwanted electronic items such as computers, monitors and televisions should contact freight/delivery. They will collect the items and decide whether they can be reused on campus or sold at auction. If not, the items are then recycled. Electronics must not be placed in the regular trash.

WMU handles cell phones separately. Mail or drop off old cell phones at Recycling/Waste Reduction Services, 210 Physical Plant. Some cell phones are refurbished and used again. Others are recycled, keeping the batteries and metals out of our landfills.

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



Office Recycling Reminder

Do you know how to increase your recycling efforts? Here are some commonly missed items that can be recycled.

- Envelopes
- Post-it Notes
- Scrap Paper
- Phone Messages
- Magazines
- Multiple copy Forms
- Newspaper Inserts
- Lids from yogurt
- Aluminum Foil

Choose to Recycle!

WMU Recycles the Following:

Please help us keep the large recycling bins emptied.

- Do not move them to private offices.
- Do **NOT** overfill.
- Place only the proper material in the bin.
- Notify R&WRS if bins are full.

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.

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"**

Reminders...

Office Hours:
Monday –
Thursday
8am-4pm

Now is a GREAT
time to clean out
your files and
participate in
Recycle Mania.

Pizza boxes are
not recyclable.

Hardcover books
and catalogs are
not recyclable.

All departments
anticipating a
move to a new
building should
contact R&WRS
to determine
whether to take
recycling bins or
not. Large bins
are coded by
building and
should not be
moved.

Cryptogram Answer:
Use it up, wear it out,
make it do, or do
without!

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Printed on recycled paper.

New Buildings, New Bins

Now that the new
Chemistry and Richmond Center
buildings are open, keep your
eyes open for recycling bins!
We are excited to provide
students and staff with more
opportunities to participate in
recycling in these new places.

There will be paper
recycling in classrooms and
offices, as well as bins for
bottles and cans in the lounges.

While orienting yourself

to a new place, you generally
find out where the
bathrooms, drinking
fountains, trash bins, and
other useful facilities are
within the building. When
finding out the important
places in the new buildings
on campus, look for the
recycling bins while you are
at it. Support the earth, and
support WMU in our efforts
to reduce waste and save
money!

Cryptogram

SUW XO SR, EWIT XO DSO, JIFW XO CD, DT CD EXOYDSO!

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

Hints:

-Suggestions on waste reduction

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WMU RECYCLES!