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# WMU RECYCLES

March 1998

A Publication of WMU Recycling Services

## Are You Recycling All You Can?

Have you looked in your wastebasket recently to see what you are throwing away? Chances are that you will still find a large amount of recyclable material in your trash, even after 7 years of the recycling program.

Recycling Services conducted a very quick review of the trash at Seibert Administration Building in mid-January. The results were both encouraging and discouraging. On the bright side, the amount of recyclables in the trash was significantly lower than before the recycling program was instituted. On the other hand, the trash still contained 38% recyclable paper, 3% polystyrene foam and 3% recyclable metal, such as soup cans and aluminum foil. There was also a small amount of colorless glass and #1 and #2 plastic bottles, all of which should have been recycled in presently available programs.

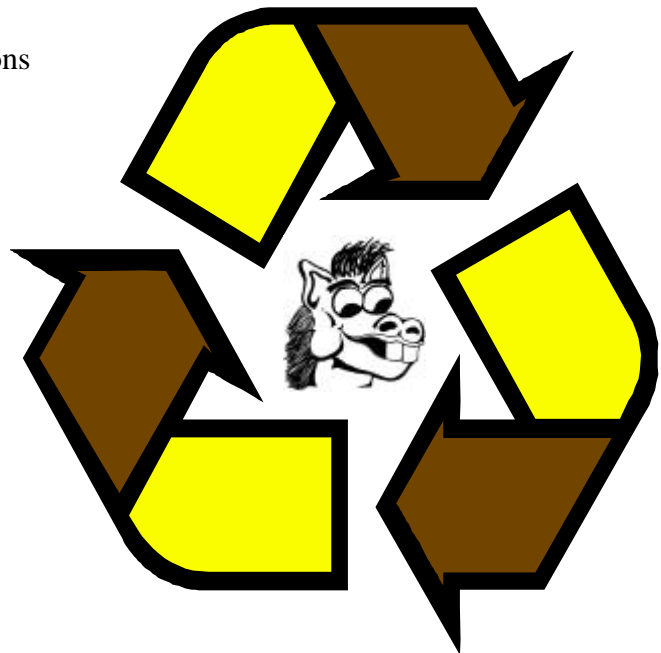
Please take a look at the list of recyclables on the next page. Be sure you are always recycling everything you can. The university avoided over \$45,000 in landfill charges for the 1996/1997 fiscal year. If we remove additional recyclables, we will save even more on landfill charges.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions about the recycling program or this newsletter, please contact

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or by e-mail at  
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If you're not recycling, you're throwing it all away.



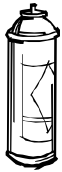
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# WMU RECYCLES

- PAPER PRODUCTS



- business cards
- cardboard
- catalogs (paperback only)
- computer printouts
- copier paper
- ditto paper
- fax paper
- file folders (manila)
- junk mail
- magazines
- NCR paper (carbonless)
- newspaper
- newsprint pad paper
- office stationery
- pad and tablet paper
- Post-It Notes



- OTHER

- batteries
- empty aerosols
- toner cartridges
- scrap metal



- CONTAINERS

- plastic bottles (#1 and #2)
- milk jugs
- detergent bottles
- salad dressing bottles
- water bottles
- shampoo bottles
- steel cans
- food cans
- aluminum cans and foil
- beverage cans
- pie tins
- clear glass bottles and jars
- metal jar lids



- POLYSTYRENE FOAM

- computer packaging
- cups, plates
- furniture and appliance packaging
- take-out clamshells
- meat trays
- egg cartons



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## Mini Bin Program

In January 1998 Recycling Services started a pilot program in the Seibert Administration Building. The Mini Bin Program is designed to reduce the amount of recyclable material disposed as waste. If the program is successful, Recycling Services hopes to implement it throughout campus.

To begin the program, Recycling Services conducted a waste review (see page 1) and replaced the large wastebaskets in the offices with the Mini Bin. Bins in breakrooms and near coffee pots were not replaced. The Mini Bins are about 5.5 inches high and 5 inches in diameter: small enough to discourage placing recyclables inside but large enough for facial tissue, gum and candy wrappers and other small non-recyclable materials. Anything that will not fit in the Mini Bin must be taken directly to the central waste station.

You may be concerned the Mini Bin will need to be emptied daily. The Recycling Coordinator empties the bin once a week. Most people do not realize that most of the waste from an office is recyclable. The Mini Bin program forces you to re-evaluate what you throw away. Is it waste or recyclable?

Recycling Services is expecting a 30% reduction in waste sent to the landfill with this program. Another waste audit will be conducted at the Administration Building to determine whether the program is effective. The amount of recyclables collected will increase while waste decreases: a goal Recycling Services always tries to attain.

An effective program established throughout campus will need the cooperation of everyone involved. If and when you are contacted about participating, think of it as the next step in saving money and protecting our resources. The Mini Bin is a step in the right direction.

**Did you know...** If everyone at Western Michigan University reused the backside of one sheet of paper every day we would save...

- Approximately 25,000 pieces of paper per day,
- Approximately 125,000 pieces of paper per week and,
- Approximately 6.25 million pieces of paper per year.



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## Spring Moveout '98

Spring Moveout '98 is drawing near. As we approach the end of the semester, Recycling Services is reminding you to recycle any unwanted items. During spring moveout Recycling Services will accept linens, clothing, unopened, non-perishable food, unopened toiletries, furniture, working appliances, and refundable cans and bottles. All items will be donated to local social service organizations to benefit those who need the items. Recycling Services will be collecting these items during exam week of winter semester. The drop-off sites and times will be available at a later date. Feel free to contact us at 387-8165 with any questions concerning acceptable items or if you would like to donate any items before spring moveout. Your participation is highly appreciated by everyone involved.



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