Single Stream Refresher!

Changes for the recycling program

We are quickly approaching the one year mark of the U-M campus' switch to single-stream recycling. Since last September, we have been working to replace “Paper” and “Container” recycling bin lids with “Recyclables” lids to reflect the single-stream change.

With this change to single-stream recycling, we are able to accept an expanded number of plastics. Previously, only #1 and #2 plastic bottles were accepted for recycling. However, we are now able to accept #’s 4-7 as well! This includes yogurt cups, plastic cups, margarine tubs, frozen meal trays, berry boxes and plastic salad bar containers. These items can be placed into any recycling bin or recycling dumpster on campus.

If you find an area in your building that has not received the new single-stream lids, please email recycle@umich.edu.

The following materials can be placed in the Recyclables bins in campus buildings and the blue Recyclables dumpsters:

**Paper**
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Catalogues
- Glossy Fillers/ Mailers
- Junk Mail
- Envelopes
- Non-metallic Wrapping Paper
- Office & Notebook Paper
- Telephone Books

**Containers**
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Steel Containers
- Metal Lids
- Small Scrap Metal (pots, pans, metal trays, metal bakeware, metal utensils)
- Aluminum (cans, trays, clean foil)
- Plastic Bottles & Cups
- Plastic Tubs
- Bulky Plastic Molded Materials (buckets, milk crates, plant pots)

**Cardboard**
- All Paperboard
- Paper Bags
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Boxboard
- Milk Cartons
- Juice Boxes

Please flatten cardboard!

DID YOU KNOW?

Americans use **25 billion tons** of paper yearly, that's roughly **680 lbs** of paper per person!
One building has a recycling rate of over 70% while another barely reaches 20%. Both have recycling available, both have recycling bins, so why the difference? This is a question we've received numerous times. What does X building do to be so great at recycling? Well, we’re going to find out. This summer, U-M Recycling intern, Elizabeth Fox, is working with us to research recycling best practices on the U-M Ann Arbor campus. Campus buildings have been divided into six broad building categories: Administrative, Athletic/Recreational, Classroom, Research, Residential and Unions. We’ve identified the buildings that consistently have the highest recycling rates within these categories and are working to determine what exactly they are doing to be so successful at recycling. We will bring these findings together into a Recycling Best Practices Guide to share with campus and help buildings improve their recycling performances. Stay tuned!

Recycling Best Practices

The U-M Recycling Program has partnered with Procurement Services and TerraCycle to bring the Recycle Write! program to campus. Through this program, U-M students, faculty and staff can dispose of their pens, pencils and markers in an environmentally-responsible way. TerraCycle recycles that material into various products.

In addition to recycling old writing utensils into new recycled products, TerraCycle will also donate $0.02 to the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital for each item recycled through the Recycle Write! program.

So how do you recycle your old writing utensils? If you have a small amount, please send them through campus mail to:
Recycle Write!
Plant Building and Grounds Services
109 E. Madison
Campus zip: 2993

Your office or department may also set up its own collection box. Please use a copy paper box and label it with the printable sign found at www.recycle.umich.edu. Once the box is full, please contact Procurement Services at strategicca@umich.edu to request a pre-paid label for the Recycle Write! program.

Student Move Out

Reducing waste helps a ton

This spring marked another successful Student Move Out effort. Working with University Housing, we were able to collect 11.56 tons of clothing, shoes, household items, bedding and food donations. This is a great improvement from last year’s total of 9.91 tons. All donations were distributed to local non-profit organizations that included Food Gatherers, Easter Seals, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop and Purple Heart. We were happy to once again use this partnership to reduce waste and benefit the local community!
Winners

Recyclemania and Recycling Champions!

This past winter semester marked U-M’s sixth year participating in RecycleMania, a nationwide collegiate recycling and waste reduction competition. The competition is comprised of four categories: recycling rate, per capita recycling, per capita total waste, and total pounds of recycling. We competed against 630 schools in this 10 week competition running from January 23rd through April 2nd. U-M finished in sixth place in total lbs of recycling with 810,747 lbs! In conjunction with RecycleMania, we also held the fifth annual intra-campus Recycling Champions competition. Throughout the ten weeks, 43 campus buildings competed to see who had the highest recycling rate, most improved recycling rate, and most reduced their total waste. All buildings did a great job!

Here are the top finishers in each category ▼

Recycling Rate
Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering
73.9%

Most Improved Recycling Rate
Nichols Arboretum
53.4%

Waste Reduction
Alumni Center
20.9%

How is it that the Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering building did so well in the Recycling Champions competition? Kathy Brotchner at NAME, provided us with some of the tips and strategies they use during the competition and year round.

• Send out email reminders of what materials are acceptable for recycling
• Keep building occupants updated on weekly competition standings
• Provide friendly in-person reminders of what goes in which bin
• Ensure that recycling bins are paired next to trash bins and are easily accessible, especially at meetings
• Encourage staff to bring a reusable mug and silverware when possible to reduce waste

Recycling Rates

For the 2011 fiscal year

The numbers are in and the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus recycled 30.5% of its waste during fiscal year 2011. This number is the percentage of all material collected (recycling and refuse) that is recycled. This is an increase from the 28.6% recycled in FY 2010, so staff, faculty and students have done a great job over the past year! Below are the buildings with the top five recycling rates on campus. Everyone did a great job and keep recycling! ▼

- Naval Arch. & Marine Engineering
  68.4%
- Medical Equipment
  68.2%
- Law School Admissions
  65.5%
- Madison Building
  64.9%
- North Hall & Museum Annex
  64.8%

For full results, visit ▼
http://www.recycle.umich.edu/grounds/recycle/recycle_champions.php
Get ready for Recycling Champions 2012!