

THE RECYCLE REPORT

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/recycling>

ISSUE 28

SPRING 2003

UW enrolls a smart can

As part of the University's growing effort to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, all outdoor garbage cans will eventually be replaced by a smarter, more environmentally friendly can.

Four hundred "Urban Recyclers", will be placed in high traffic areas around the University over the next few months.

These 36-gallon stainless steel receptacles feature a lower portion for litter and a separate upper chamber for cans, glass and plastic bottles. The unique upper repository is clearly identified and has a convenient spring-loaded trap door to allow for easy access and emptying.

The Urban Recyclers are manufactured using 87% recycled steel and the polyethylene liners are made of 70% recycled plastic, making these cans very environmentally friendly.

The original receptacle was commissioned by the Cityscape Institute (a not-for-profit organization that promotes public space improvement) and designed in conjunction with Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates.

The manufacturer, Forms+Surfaces (a member of the United States Green Building Council), engaged in extensive research with major municipal governments and sanitation departments throughout the development and manufacturing cycle to ensure that the design met a multiplicity of needs and requirements.

However, smart as they are, these cans are not expected to graduate from the UW anytime soon.



"We're calling them Smart Cans", says Anne Eskridge, Manager of Property and Transport Services at the University of Washington. "From day one, they have been used effectively and appropriately without any supplemental signage or instruction. Contamination of the recycling unit is very low, below 1%. These new receptacles have enabled us to address our recycling needs without requiring additional space for a second receptacle. It is a marvelously efficient solution."

Students help recycle old computers

A joint program between UW Surplus Property and Everett Community College gives PC Hardware Tech students the opportunity to get practical skills working with the University's surplus computers.

The program which began in February 2003 benefits not only the students and the University, but also helps reduce the amount of plastics and other computer hardware going into the landfill.

Ilona Helgeson, Instructor for PC Hardware Tech at Everett Community College, says the program is a first for students, because it gives them valuable hands-on experience with a wide variety of machines.

Since the program began, the students have taken apart, cleaned, fixed, customized and put together over 100 computers. Also, a large numbers of parts have been individually tested and labeled.

The program's success is due to the real benefits it provides for everyone involved.

The refurbished PCs are sold through UW Surplus Public Store which is open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Visit www.washington.edu/admin/surplus/store.html for more information.

**Visit our display at
Earth Fair 2003 April 21**



The Recycle Report is published quarterly by UW Recycling
4535 Union Bay Place Seattle WA, Box 355210
Direct questions to recycle@u.washington.edu or 206.685.2811
Editorial Staff: Ari Kasapyan, Pat Kaufman, Anne Eskridge



- Please request name or address changes through your payroll coordinator.



Interested in getting The Recycle Report in electronic format?

Just email recycle@u.washington.edu with **subscribe** in the subject header.

Phone directories are on their way out

Every year out-dated phone directories are recycled to make new ones. This process requires 50% less energy and reduces air pollution by 95%, compared to using raw materials. UW Recycling wants to recycle as many old Qwest directories as possible.

How can I help?

- All you have to do is place the old directories next to a bagit station.
- Go online and use whitepages.com, questdex.com, superpages.com or anywho.com instead of ordering a new directory.

- Share phone directories with coworkers.
- Speak with the phone directory coordinator in your building to help reduce the number of directories ordered in each office.

The coordinator list is available on the UW Recycling web site. Ordering and delivery is coordinated by UW Mailing Services (box35@u.washington.edu or 206.543.8757). Collection is coordinated by UW Recycling (phonbook@u.washington.edu or 206.685.2811). If you work in a university-leased building, the building management will direct the delivery and collection of phone directories.

New labels reduce recycling confusion

Everything seems to have a trendy label on it these days: t-shirts, coffee mugs, and backpacks. Bags for collecting recyclable paper at the UW are joining the movement.

The user-friendly color coding of the current bagits located in university offices and work areas will remain: blue for newspaper, green for mixed paper and white for white paper. Now, to make recycling easier, labels will be printed on all new hanging polypropylene bagits.

Eventually all bags will be replaced with the newly labeled bagits. For bagits without labels, signs can be printed and displayed above each collection site.

Visit www.washington.edu/admin/depts/recycling/signs.html to print out the appropriate signs.



All bagits will soon have the new easy-to-see labels, making recycling that much easier.

UW Recycling web site has the answers

Does a recycling question lurk in the back of your mind? Are you throwing out things you would like to recycle? It's easy to find the answers to your recycling questions. Visit www.washington.edu/admin/recycling.

The web site gives a comprehensive listing of all the services UW Recycling offers, with links to additional resources such as past copies of The Recycle Report, sites of interest and of course the ability to

print out signs that will increase recycling in the community. Don't forget you can also email recycling service requests directly from the web site.

Any suggestions for web site improvement are always appreciated. Please contact UW Recycling, Program Operations Manager, Pat Kaufman on 206.221.6543 regarding any questions you might have. Remember we're here to make your recycling experience as convenient as possible.