

University of Washington – Recycling & Solid Waste



Scram donation station at Stevens Court

Students move out

In 2008, *Summer Scram* got a facelift. The name changed to *Scram: Student Moveout* with the tagline *Can't Take It. Donate It.* New banners and other promotional materials gave the program higher visibility and were well received by students.

Scram ran for three weeks this year, instead of two, to see if this additional time resulted in vastly increased donations. From the eight donation stations set up at eight residence halls across campus, 11.39 tons of material were collected and donated to the program partners, about one ton more than in 2007.

Because of the increasing amount of incidental toiletries/cleaning supplies and school supplies found at the donation stations in previous years, collection containers for these items were added in 2008. The toiletries and cleaning

supplies were donated to Real Change and the school supplies were donated to Center for Human Services. Other program partners were Northwest Center, Food Lifeline, and Books To Prisoners. All program partners are non-profits based in the greater Seattle area.

Recycling & Solid Waste worked closely with program partners to create appropriate pickup schedules. Partners were on campus only when service was needed, thereby reducing truck traffic on campus and vehicle emissions.

As in previous years, Recycling & Solid Waste coordinated operations with program partners, created promotional materials, set up and broke down the donation stations, and on a daily basis cleaned up the sites and collected items that required special recycling or disposal.



Recycling & Solid Waste staff clean and check donation stations



Northwest Center, one of Scram's program partners, collects clothing donations

History

2003 Recycling & Solid Waste conducted a waste audit of the residence halls at the end of the 02/03 academic year. Because of the large volume of reusable items found in the landfill-bound garbage containers, a proposal was made to and approved by Housing and Food Services for Recycling & Solid Waste to run an end-of-the year donation program in 2004.

2004 The first year of the donation program was a partnership between Recycling & Solid Waste, the City of Seattle, and Housing and Food Services. Recycling & Solid Waste named the event *Summer Scram*, created the logo, and produced marketing materials with funds donated by the city. The city also loaned tents to set up the eight donation stations. The event ran for two weeks, with Recycling & Solid Waste staff collecting items from the donation stations each day. Items were consolidated and sorted at the Bryant Shed for pickup by program partners Northwest Center, Food Lifeline, Books for Africa, World Concern, and Seattle Public Utilities.

2005 Because of the large amount of time required by Recycling & Solid Waste staff to collect and sort all donations in 2004, this year the partners were required to provide their own collection containers and regular pickup from the donation stations. Program partners included Northwest Center, Food Lifeline, and Mona's Children (a UW student organization collecting for Books for Africa). Recycling & Solid Waste staff collected items that required special recycling or disposal.

2006 Northwest Center and Food Lifeline again provided collection containers and regular pickup from the donation stations. Recycling & Solid Waste staff collected items that required special recycling or disposal, as well as books for Better World Books/Books for Africa. This year, 60 pounds of cleaning products and toiletries were collected from the donation stations, even though there were no designated containers for these items. These items were donated to New Beginnings and Volunteers of America, two local non-profits.

2007 So that tents no longer had to be borrowed from the city, Recycling & Solid Waste purchased tents to use during *Summer Scram*. Program partners were Northwest Center, Food Lifeline, and Mona's Children/Books for Africa. As in 2006, even though there were no designated containers, 110 pounds of cleaning products and toiletries were collected and donated to Real Change, a local non-profit.

Giving back

Since *Scram* began in 2004, more than 50 tons of material have been donated to local charitable organizations. The donations made by the more than 5,000 University of Washington students moving out of the residence halls each year provide much needed assistance to individuals and families located here in Seattle and beyond.

Total materials collected



Donation totals

	2004 thru 2007	2008	Total
Clothing	25.95 tons	7.7 tons	33.65 tons
Food	3.83 tons	.35 tons	4.18 tons
Books	2.35 tons	.58 tons	2.93 tons
Toiletries	.06 tons	.11 tons	.17 tons
School Supplies	n/a	.12 tons	.12 tons
Reuseable Items	6.75 tons	2.53 tons	9.28 tons
Tonnage Donated	38.94 tons	11.39 tons	50.33 tons