

THE RECYCLER REPORT

A Property and Transport Services Publication

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

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Recycling decline prompts paper ban

Beginning January 1, 2005, the Seattle City Council's ordinance requiring mandatory recycling of paper and cardboard at all businesses takes effect. The Recycle Report first informed the campus about the upcoming ban back in the spring of this year.

The paper ban was prompted by the declining rate of recycling in the city. In 1989, Seattle adopted a recycling goal of 60%. Since a recycling rate peak of 44% in 1995, there has been a continual decline. The recycling rate was only 38% in 2001.

The City Council hopes mandatory recycling will reverse this declining trend.

What does this mean for the UW?

A large portion of our waste stream at the UW is paper – a waste characterization study conducted last year showed that 39% of the landfill waste produced by the UW is paper that could have easily been recycled.

In order to meet the city's requirement, we must all work together.

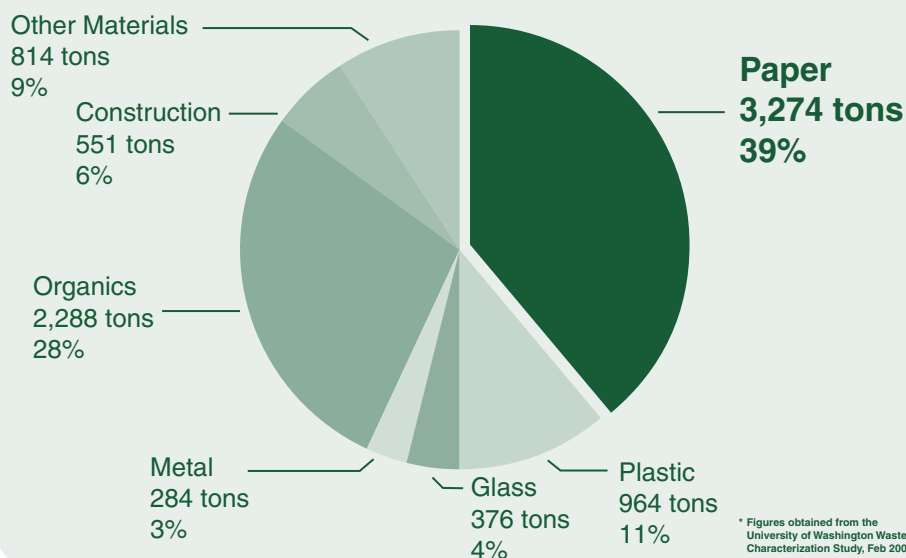
All clean paper can be recycled, including newspapers, magazines, envelopes, notebook paper, and sticky notes.

We need your help getting paper out of the trash. Stop. Think. Recycle.



Need a container to recycle paper? Simply go to www.washington.edu/admin/recycling to place an order for a personal recycling bin.

Composition of campus-wide garbage*



UW Club leads composting initiative

In April 2004, the kitchen staff at the UW Club (Faculty Club) began collecting food waste as part of a UW Recycling pilot program. Eight months down the track, this program is now a permanent collection service that has been expanded to include other food service facilities on campus. Organic material accounted for 28% of the UW's landfill stream.

The program collects organic material, such as fruits and vegetables, which are gathered in the prep cooking areas of the kitchen. Coffee grounds are also collected at the UW Club and at several other locations on campus, including the HUB. No meat or dairy products are currently included in the food waste program.

Approximately 16% of the UW Club garbage previously sent to landfill

is now diverted to a regional composting facility. Because fees for commercial food waste collection are approximately 30% less than garbage service, the more food waste material diverted from the garbage, the more money each food service location will save.

When the collected food waste material arrives at the compost facility, it is mixed with yard waste, landscape debris, and other food waste from grocery stores, and restaurants. The nutrient-rich food waste is then transformed into a compost soil amendment that feeds plants, reduces erosion, and improves moisture retention in soils, instead of ending up in the landfill.



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Interested in getting The Recycle Report in electronic format?
Just email recycle@u.washington.edu with **subscribe** in the subject header.

Student collaborates with UW Recycling to improve recycling on campus

Because of efforts made by Chad Robertson, a Graduate Student Assistant in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP), there is a greater chance that waste from architecture projects will be recycled.

In both Gould Hall and Architecture Hall, there are now special collection containers for wood waste, scrap metal, concrete rubble, cardboard, student projects, and models.

Chad first contacted UW Recycling to see if waste from Gould Hall's wood shop could be recycled. After touring the shop, UW Recycling produced signage, provided extra bins, and changed the hauling service for Gould Hall's dumpster.

At Architecture Hall, the requirements for recycling were a little different as students do not have a wood shop or metal shop. They do, however, work in studios, and create an abundance of recyclable waste paper, which includes cardboard scraps from models and projects.

Chad saw the need for better recycling service in the studios and worked with staff and faculty to improve the collection service.



With the introduction of the new paper recycling bagits, it is hoped the amount of paper going to the landfill will be significantly reduced.

Each studio in Architecture Hall was recently provided with bagits (paper recycling bags) for mixed paper collection.

Tent signs and posters were also created for the studios to increase awareness regarding which materials are recyclable. Additional cans and bottles recycle bins were added to larger studios.

The collaborative experience for staff and students has been rewarding, for both the department and the University as a whole.

And the winner is ...

The winner of last issue's recycling competition was Marisa Pellegrini. Her prize, a fleece vest made of recycled plastic, was kindly donated by Patagonia. It was great to see so many ideas for encouraging people to recycle paper on campus. Marisa's entry can be found at www.washington.edu/admin/recycling

Facilities Services Sustainability Report is now online

Interested in reading about conservation efforts made by the people who keep the University running smoothly? Simply go online to www.washington.edu/admin/pts/sustainability.html and download the report.

Phonebook ordering & recycling

Extra phonebooks can be ordered throughout the year by calling the distributor directly at 1.800.422.8793. Individual phonebooks can be placed into mixed-paper bagits for recycling. Campus-wide phonebook ordering takes place each April.

UW Surplus update

The UW Surplus Property Program has finalized Public Store and Auction dates for 2005. Please visit www.uwsurplus.com for this and more upcoming news and information.