

THE RECYCLER REPORT

A Property and Transport Services Publication

<http://www.uwrecycling.com>

ISSUE 35

WINTER QUARTER 2007

A role model for UW departments

When the Southwest Maintenance Zone (SWMZ) facilities staff moved into their new office space, they decided to do things differently, starting with looking at their waste disposal practices.

Staff took the time to ask what their options were for waste disposal. This is where UW Recycling was more than happy to help generate additional recycling opportunities.

In addition to the usual paper recycling at the copy machine and cans and bottles recycling in the break room, the SWMZ staff wanted to try out something new. Staff now have a self-serve food waste bin in their lunch room.

A steady stream of coffee grounds and other nutrient-rich food waste is collected in a food waste bin and emptied by staff into the building's outdoor food waste toter.

With so much already being recycled in the building, the commitment made by this sustainability-minded work group to service their own food waste bins was easy.

Departments interested in diverting food waste from the waste stream can email UW Recycling at recycle@u.washington.edu or visit www.uwrecycling.com for more information.



Staff empty food waste into centrally located toters.



Self-serve food waste collection containers take up little space, yet divert a great deal of food waste from the landfill-bound waste stream.

Creativity makes surplus cool

Say the word "surplus" and most people think of beat-up furniture, obsolete equipment, or ... even worse ... junk. However, many departments have discovered the benefits of reuse.

With little money to spend on new office equipment, Southwest Maintenance Zone Manager John Carroll, with the help of UW Surplus Store staff, set about transforming his department's new office space with quality used office furniture and items that are now well removed from their intended use.

For example, by reusing lab drying racks surplused from UWMC, John created modern looking notice boards that give a creative edge to the standard notice boards hanging in the hallway.



What was once lab equipment is transformed into an artistic notice board.

For more information, departments are encouraged to visit www.uwsurplus.com.



The Recycle Report is published quarterly by UW Recycling
4535 Union Bay Place, Seattle, WA, 98105 Campus Box 355210
Direct questions to recycle@u.washington.edu or 206.685.2811
Editorial Staff: Pat Kaufman, Kristin Elko, Anne Eskridge
Design and Layout: Ari Kasapyan

- 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.

Sustainability: Not just a buzzword

For many departments, “sustainability” isn’t just the latest environmental buzzword.

Many Facilities Services departments, as well as other departments on campus, have already adopted sustainable practices in daily operations and others are exploring new ways to improve operations with sustainable practices in mind.

Custodial Services has established a ‘Green Cleaning Policy’ that improves the working environment for its staff as well as the campus community.

Motor Pool introduced a diesel blend that includes 5% biodiesel, with the aim to increase to 20% biodiesel mix after the trial period.

Starting January 3, 2007, Housing and Food Services will send its frying oil to a vendor to be converted into biodiesel.

So what can your department do? To find out, start by visiting www.uwrecycling.com. You can also read more about Custodial’s Green Cleaning Policy at www.washington.edu/admin/facserv/custodial/images/GreenPolicy.pdf

See green when you recycle office paper

Sorting paper for recycling will soon become a thing of the past for the campus population.

UW Recycling, with the help of Custodial Services, has started replacing blue and white bagits with all green bagits to improve collection efficiencies. “Convenience is the key to achieving high participation rates,” says Pat Kaufman, UW Recycling Manager, who believes this new paper collection process will save staff a lot of time.

You can learn more about paper recycling initiatives at the UW by visiting the website at www.uwrecycling.com



Green bagits will gradually replace all blue and white bagits on campus. Efficiencies will be achieved in the collection process.

UW’s recycle rate jumps

The good news is that the UW has improved its overall recycling rate from 34.8% last year to 44% this year. This represents an increase of 26% over the course of one year. Although this figure is encouraging, there is room for improvement if the university wants to achieve its target of a 60% campus-wide recycling rate.

Recycling rates since 2002



Fish composting update

The second annual fish composting effort resulted in more than 36,000 pounds (18 tons) of salmon being composted during the harvest from September through December. The fish were collected as part of the UW food waste route and taken to Cedar Grove Composting.

Reuse opportunity

The next surplus public auction will be held on January 20, 2007 – www.uwsurplus.com.