

Waste Management & Recycling

The Waste Transfer Station is at the center of campus waste management and recycling activities. The station supports the overall campus goal to reduce the amount of material entering the waste stream.



Disposing of Recyclables

There are more than a thousand recycling bins on campus in offices, hallways, dorms, and on the grounds in which to place paper, plastic, and aluminum cans. There is also a dedicated newspaper and cardboard drop-off location at the southeast corner of Oak Street and Kirby Avenue.

Processing Recyclable Materials

The Waste Transfer Station (WTS) operates daily recycling routes in addition to its regular trash routes. The recyclables collected from campus are deposited in storage bins. As recyclable material arrives at the WTS it is manually sorted. The trash is compacted and shipped to the landfill at a cost to the university. Recyclables are compressed into large bales and sold to a recycling mill.

Recycling and Reusing in Construction

In addition to paper, plastic, and aluminum, F&S recycles an average of 50% of construction demolition waste. This benefits the environment and adds points toward LEED® certification of our buildings.

The Future of Recycling on Campus

Zero Waste is a whole system approach to resource management centered on reducing, reusing, and recycling. To make recycling work for everyone, we need to buy products made from the materials we recycle. This reduces the need to utilize non-renewable resources by reusing materials that have been previously consumed.

The goal of zero waste is to:

- Maximize recycling
- Minimize waste
- Reduce consumption
- Ensure products are made to be reused, repaired, or recycled
- Purchase sustainable products

Zero waste systems reduce greenhouse gases by:

- Saving energy – especially by reducing energy consumption associated with extracting, processing, and transporting raw materials and waste
- Reducing and eventually eliminating the need for landfills and incinerators

Recycling Results

- Conserve limited resources
- Reduce need for new landfills
- Save energy
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce emissions of air and water pollutants

Recycling Tips

- Note where the recycling bins are in your area and use them whenever possible
- Remove the lids and rings from plastic bottles
- Perform your own waste audit to identify ways to reduce the amount of waste generated
- Buy items made from recycled, sustainable products

Fluorescent Bulb Recycling

More than 120,000 fluorescent fixtures are installed in campus facilities. To avoid releasing mercury into the landfills, the laborer-electricians recycle fluorescent bulbs. The university recycles 99% of its light bulbs.

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