

Getting Serious About Sorting: Managing Our Waste



CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING STUDIO

**PROPOSED BY
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Why divert waste?



- Greenhouse gases
 - Methane
 - Landfill Decomposition



A Sustainable Western



- Defined by the WWU Sustainability Committee
 - Protects local and global ecology
 - Upholds social equity
 - Creates economic vitality
 - Maintains human health



Western's Current Bins



- CleanRiver Recycling Solutions
- Costs about \$2150 for 4 bins
 - \$400 per bin
 - \$550 for shipping a set of 4
- AS Recycle Center's Blue Barrel system

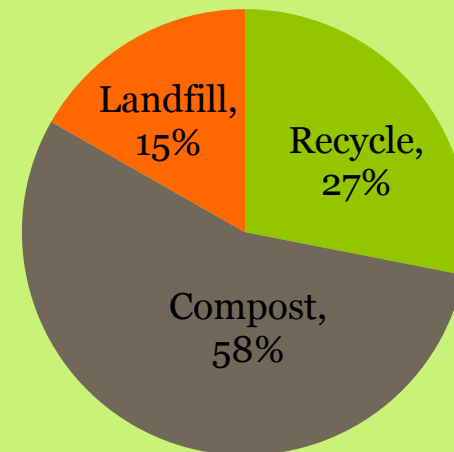


Western has a Waste Problem



- Western needs more waste and recycling sorting stations
- Waste audit - 85% of the landfill is incorrectly sorted materials

**Landfill Waste Composition
2009 - 2011**



Focus Group



- Participatory Action Research – ANTH 454
- Students with various majors and interests
- Results
 - Not being able to find a sorting station when needed
 - Stated that there are not enough stations on campus
 - Felt guilty

Do Nothing



- Recyclable and compostable items will continue to go into landfills
- Lost opportunity
 - Expanding recycle/compost efforts
 - Education
 - Reputation



Comparative Analysis





- **Criteria**
 - **Cost**
 - Durability
 - Capacity
 - Color coordination/aesthetics
 - **Ease of use/signage**
 - **Sustainable production and materials**

Commercial Options



- Cost significantly less
- Sacrificing too much as far as aesthetics, ease of use, and sustainable production
- Most bins do not include compost or are intended for use with single stream recycling

| | Cost | Signage | Sustainable production/materials |
|---|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | \$179.95/unit | Room for signage on unit Room for signage above | No mention Made of steel |
|  | \$146/3 bin unit | Room for signage on unit Room for signage above | Made of 100% recyclable polyethylene |

The Best Option for Western



- Campus standard
- Current bins support Western's goals
- Double the purchasing power
 - 4 CleanRiver bins creates 2 stations
- Western can complete the stations over time
- Intermediary solution



Alternative



- Sorting station made entirely of blue barrels
- Each barrel costs \$5 when purchased used
- Opportunity to educate students about the Recycle Center



What if we enclose them?



- Work in progress through the AS Recycle center
- New design specifically to accommodate dorms
- Could be adapted for other areas of campus



Financing



- Where are we getting the money to purchase new bins?
 - Operational Budget
 - Capital Budget
- Pilot – SMATE Building
 - Create two stations
 - Coordinating blue barrels in the hall
 - Educational opportunity
 - Cost (\$2150 plus labor to place them)
 - Evaluation



Conclusion



- Majority of landfill waste is divertible
- Opportunity for Western
- Dedication to sustainability
- Goals
 - Continue to expand waste management efforts
 - Provide more education about recycling and composting efforts on campus

Thank you!



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