



BOWLING GREEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

BG EcoTeam!

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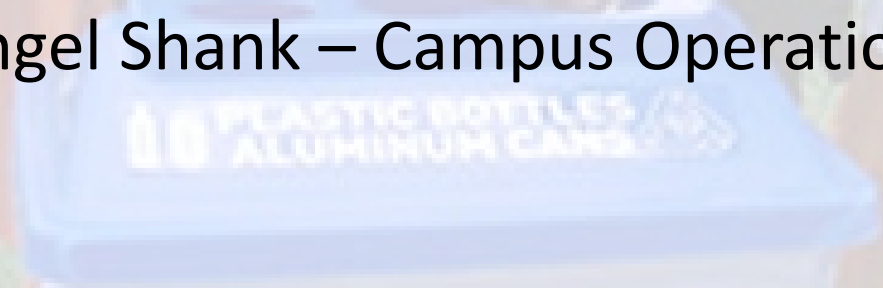
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Game Day



Recycling – BG EcoTeam! Goals

- » To better educate students, faculty and staff on:
 - » Cross contamination issues
 - » Do's and Don'ts of recycling
- » To provide the University with recommendations for the future of recycling at BGSU

**EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE, DON'T CROSS
CONTAMINATE**

Why is recycling important?

- » Focus on the Future – Strategic Goals
- » Objective 5: Enhance the quality and value of a BGSU education by developing a physical, organizational, academic, and financial infrastructure that ensures the University's short- and long-term vitality and success.
 - » We will continue our sustainability efforts and reaffirm our participation in the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

- » The American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment mission:
 1. Make an agreement with these colleges and universities that they will commit to eliminate their net greenhouse gas emissions from specified campus operations
 2. Focus on education and the institutions' ability to promote research of sustainability programs



Campus Energy and Sustainability Master Plan

- » Master Plan Study completed by SHP Leading Design and CMTA Inc. in 2016
- » Focused on
 - » Policy and behavior
 - » Renewable energy systems
 - » Energy conservation measures
- » Study helped inform the University on the best plan to move forward in achieving the goals outlined in BGSU's Climate Action Plan.

Campus Energy and Sustainability Master Plan

- » Waste Management Overview and Recommendations
 - » Continue to educate students, faculty and staff
 - » Consider recycling options for electronics and sheet plastics
 - » Consider implementing a reusable container option for food service providers on campus

Current Issues – National level

- » Cross contamination
- » Confusion
- » Changes in the recycling market

Current Issues – National Level

Cross contamination -

- » “Contamination” means non-recyclable materials are present in a recycling container/bag.
 - » Example, an excessive amount of food or liquid waste is either in the container/bag or on the recyclable items themselves.
- » Too much contamination and the bag goes to the landfill. Thus, wasting time, effort, and money.

Current Issues – National level

- » Cross contamination -
 - » Roughly, 1 in 4 items placed in recycling containers is not recyclable
 - » Average contamination rate sits around 25%
 - » Once 25% or more of the recycling is contaminated, it goes to the landfill
 - » Contamination issues add time and cost to process recycling
 - » According to Solid and Waste Education Center, contamination rates are 1% for multi-stream systems and range from 15-27% for single-stream systems.

Multi-Stream Recycling



Single-Stream Recycling



Current Issues – National level

- » Changes in the recycling market
 - » China once accepted 70% of US plastics and had low contamination standards
 - » A Chinese ban imposed in January 2018 lead to 99% reduction in imported plastics
 - » Any plastics China accepts must meet a 99.5% purity standard

Current Issues – Campus Level

- » Cross contamination
- » Confusion
- » Ineffective recycling signage
- » Inconsistent recycling containers across campus

Cross contamination - Examples



Cross contamination - Examples



Confusion

- » Assumption that items are recyclable because they are made of paper, plastic, or cardboard



Avoid Confusion - What is Recyclable at BGSU?

- » Plastic items #1-7 like soda bottles, water bottles, milk and detergent jugs, soap bottles
- » Aluminum Cans such as soda cans, beer cans
- » Steel Cans such as paint cans, various spray cans, soup cans, food cans
- » Office Paper such as printer paper, post-it notes, posters
- » Newspaper
- » Cardboard: Corrugated & Paperboard e.g. cereal boxes
- » Unbroken Glass Bottles

Avoid Confusion - What's Not Recyclable at BGSU?

- » Food
- » Paper Cups
- » Plastic Food Wrappers
- » Styrofoam
- » The plastic wrap around food items (Cellophane)
- » Straws
- » Packing Peanuts
- » Greasy Pizza Boxes
- » Napkins & Paper Towels
- » Condiment Packets & Cups
- » Plastic Bags*

Ineffective recycling signage

» Current signage is busy and hard to read

RECYCLING ♻️

PLASTIC BOTTLES

OFFICE PAPER AND NEWSPAPER

UNBROKEN GLASS

CANS

CARDBOARD
(PLEASE BREAK DOWN AND PLACE LARGE ITEMS NEXT TO CONTAINER)

**NO FOOD, CUPS OR PLASTIC BAGS!
CONTAMINATION RUINS THE ENTIRE LOAD!**

BGSU OFFICE OF CAMPUS Sustainability
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LANDFILL/TRASH

FOOD WASTE ALL-TO-GO CONTAINERS

PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAPPERS

PAPER TOWELS AND NAPKINS

CUPS, STRAWS AND UTENSILS

STYROFOAM

NO CANS! NO BOTTLES!

BGSU OFFICE OF CAMPUS Sustainability
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Inconsistent recycling containers across campus



Recommendations: Changes to Implement Now

- » Education and Awareness
 - » RecycleMania – create a similar event for fall
 - » Education on using recycling bins properly
 - » Reinstate orientation trainings with residence halls
- » Involve student organizations such as the Environmental Service Club for peer-to-peer education
- » Propose funding from Student Green Initiative Fund to support this effort
- » Utilize BGSU Mobile App with quick tips

Recommendations: Changes to Implement Now

- » Improving Signage
 - » Simplify the message and images
 - » Better placement



- » Partner with local pizza businesses to add stickers to pizza boxes (“Our pizza isn’t trash, but the box is!”)

Recommendations: Changes to Implement in Future

- » Updating and streamlining campus recycling containers – one style for all building/locations
- » Eliminate single stream recycling and return to sorting recycling by categories (paper, plastics #1 & #2, aluminum cans)
- » Create campus infrastructure to handle recycling

Recommendations: Changes to Implement in Future

- » Focus on Reduce and Reuse
 - » In discussion with Eric Heilmeier, work with Dining Services and individual vendors to implement use of reusable food and beverage containers in the dining halls
 - » Ban single use plastics like straws and beverage lids
 - » Work toward developing zero waste in dining hall
 - » Zero waste sporting events
 - » Convert all campus drinking fountains to have water bottle fill stations and provide all students, faculty and staff with a reusable BGSU water bottle

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Questions?

References:

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