

The GREEN SCENE



RECYCLEMANIA! JANUARY 28 – APRIL 7

RecycleMania is a friendly annual competition among over 200 colleges and universities in the United States. Over a 10-week period, campuses compete to see which institution can collect the most recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, and have the highest recycling rate.



Carnegie Mellon recycles paper, cardboard, and bottles and cans at a rate of about 15% of total recyclables and most universities are in the 20 to 30% range with some as high as 50%!

Can Green Practices help?

- Do you need a recycling bin?
- Do you need new labels?
- Would you like to schedule a recycling training session for your department or residence hall?

Email bk11@andrew.cmu.edu or call 412-268-7858 for assistance.

Go to www.recyclemania.org to keep up with the weekly recycling rates and totals of materials collected from all of the schools.

Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gases

Ton for ton, recycling reduces more pollution, saves more energy and reduces GHG emissions more than any other activity besides source reduction.

Garbage is a major contributor to climate change. Solid waste landfills are the single

largest man-made source of methane gas in the United States. Methane (CH₄) is a powerful greenhouse gas that is 23 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than the most prevalent greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂). Every time you "throw away," you are contributing to global warming.

Recycling reduces GHG emissions in two important ways. First, recycling keeps materials out of the landfill. Food waste, paper, grass, and other organic matter is readily digested and turned into landfill gas- which is 50 percent methane. While most landfills are required to manage some of their methane emissions, significant quantities continue to escape into the atmosphere.

Second, recycling also reduces GHG emissions by reducing the need to continually mine and refine virgin resources for product production. Recycling one ton aluminum cans results in four tons of GHG reductions.

SOURCE: SMITHLINE, WWW.CAWRECYCLES.ORG

ENVIRONMENTAL KUDOS TO THE CMU COMMUNITY

RECYCLING RATE IS INCREASING

You have helped to increase the CMU per person recycling rate by 24% over the past six years and reduce the waste generated per person by 12%. This past year we recycled 108 pounds of materials per person and generated 479 pounds of trash per person as compared to 87 pounds recycled and 543 pounds of trash per person in 2000.

SHREDDED PAPER We recycled 8.5 tons of paper through a documents destruction service. Even though the documents are shredded the paper still gets recycled!

OLD SNEAKERS Your old sneakers may have been used on our new athletic field. As the result of our athletic shoes recycling

program, we send a huge box of shoes to Nike for recycling every semester. These shoes are then ground up into Nike Grind, which is the material that was used to make a portion of our new athletic field!



PRINTING QUOTA As the result of a new-printing quota and new Andrew Printing system by Computing Services, we consumed 40% less paper and toner in the first year.

FOOD COMPOSTING Thanks to Housing and Dining Services, a food waste audit was conducted by the Food Composting Coalition team at Carnegie Mellon's University Center in April 2006.

The results of the audit found these average pounds of daily food waste:

- Chatham College 330.5 lbs
- Whole Foods Market 1660 lbs
- East End Food Cooperative 150.5 lbs
- Carnegie Mellon 647.5 lbs
- Jewish Association on Aging 383.8

The Allegheny Food Waste Composting Coalition is developing a plan for a food waste collection and composting program in the Greater Pittsburgh Area.

RECYCLING OLD STEEL The Computer Science Department recently donated a scrap metal rebate check to the Green Practices Program to be used for ongoing recycling projects.

AFFIX
TAPE HERE

RECYCLING GUIDE

www.greenpractices.org



steel
aluminum
tin cans

Please rinse cans



Look on the bottom or the side of the container for the number



Plastic bags can be recycled at Giant Eagle and Trader Joe's



clear glass
green glass
brown glass
blue glass

Please rinse and remove metal caps from glass



white + colored paper
white + colored envelopes
newspapers
magazines
fax and copy paper
glossy paper
post-it notes
telephone books
booklets/manuals
soft bound books
manila folders
cash machine receipts
greeting cards
cardboard (place next to the paper recycling bins)



batteries

→ UC INFO DESK, MELLON 3RD FLOOR, OR SEND BY CAMPUS MAIL TO FACILITIES MANAGEMENT



CDs, jewel cases, transparencies

→ UC RECYCLING CENTER, OR SEND BY CAMPUS MAIL TO FACILITIES MANAGEMENT



computers + monitors

→ GO TO www.cmu.edu/ehs TO LEARN MORE



scrap metal, wood pallets, fluorescent light bulbs, printer cartridges (toner, laser, ink-jet), spray and paint cans, clothing, styrofoam peanuts

→ GO TO www.greenpractices.org TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHERE AND HOW TO RECYCLE



NOT ACCEPTABLE

food waste
pizza boxes
lunch bags

coffee cups
cellophane
tissues

paper towels
carbon paper
Styrofoam™

