

Introduction

The 2017-2018 ESS Capstone students are revamping the recycling program at the Appalachian Center for Craft as well as introducing a composting initiative on campus. After evaluating the existing recycling bins on the campus, it was decided to offer a new system of color-coded bins that the Office of Sustainability could fund. These would replace the old bins and offer the campus an ease of access and more incentive to recycle. Composting was introduced to the craft center for their on-site restaurant, Blue Water Grille on the Hill, which will be used for soil on the campus grounds. This will educate residents and staff on composting and will create a culture of sustainability on campus.



Sustainability Concerns

In order to assist the Appalachian Center for Craft in revamping their recycling system and continuing to transition to a greener campus, we first had to evaluate the existing recycling system. While the craft center already has both recycling and composting systems, they are rudimentary and not being used to the fullest potential. Changing these systems to be more simplistic and cohesive will not only save the campus money in the long run, but can have a significant impact on the health of the environment around the campus. Any waste that can be kept out of a landfill is one step in the direction of global ecological health.

Relevant Findings

Keep America Beautiful Recycling Survey

In recent research performed by Keep America Beautiful, the color of recycling bins, shape, lid cutout shape, and bin signage were surveyed to see what specifications were most effective in getting people to recycle. For the bin color, their results found that gray should be reserved for trash, blue for recycling, and composting does not have a strong color association. For the shape of the bins, their results found that round bins should be used for trash and a rectangular bin would be most effective in recognizing recycling. For the lid cutout shape, Keep America Beautiful found that a circle cutout is most effective for recycling cans and bottles, a slit cutout for paper, and a circle and slit cutout combined signifies mixed recyclables the best. For signage, it was found that while labeling the bins with images is effective it can result in the misuse of bins. For better results, it is recommended that you use the signage such as, "Cans, Bottles, Paper" alongside an image to insure the best results.



Composting Case Study: Cornell University

In 1997, Cornell University had roughly 19,000 students who generated 700 tons of food waste yearly. The university began composting food scraps and educating staff members on composting benefits and procedures. There was a joint effort to bring composting to a reality among many departments, including Engineering, Biology, Dining Services, and Farm Services. They successfully implemented composting which resulted in significant waste diversion and funding of hands on projects for students.

Objectives

Once we have completed our work with the Appalachian Center for Craft we hope to leave them with a strong recycling and composting program. To accomplish this, we will provide the physical resources and the knowledge needed to make the program successful. The plan is to provide color-coded bins with effective signage to be placed around campus and in the living quarters. With these additions, they should be able to improve their recycling and composting systems to create a culture of sustainability for the Appalachian Center for Craft.



Conclusion

Our project at the Appalachian Center for Craft will enhance the recycling program so the students and faculty have a more efficient system of recycling and waste diversion. The craft center's restaurant, Blue Water Grille on the Hill, will begin composting food waste for campus landscaping needs. The recycling and composting bins will be funded by the Office of Sustainability through the Sustainable Campus Committee. We hope this project will positively impact the craft center in a way that promotes sustainability.

References and Acknowledgments

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The Cornell Waste Management Institute. (2009). *Composting Case Study: Cornell University*. Retrieved from <http://www.compost.css.cornell.edu/Cornell.html>

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