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Off Campus Recycling

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GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Off-Campus Recycling

ENS 401-Environmental Problem Solving

Grant Borregard, Tori Graves, Paul Lamphere, Cassie Pataro, Mara Spears
Winter 2017



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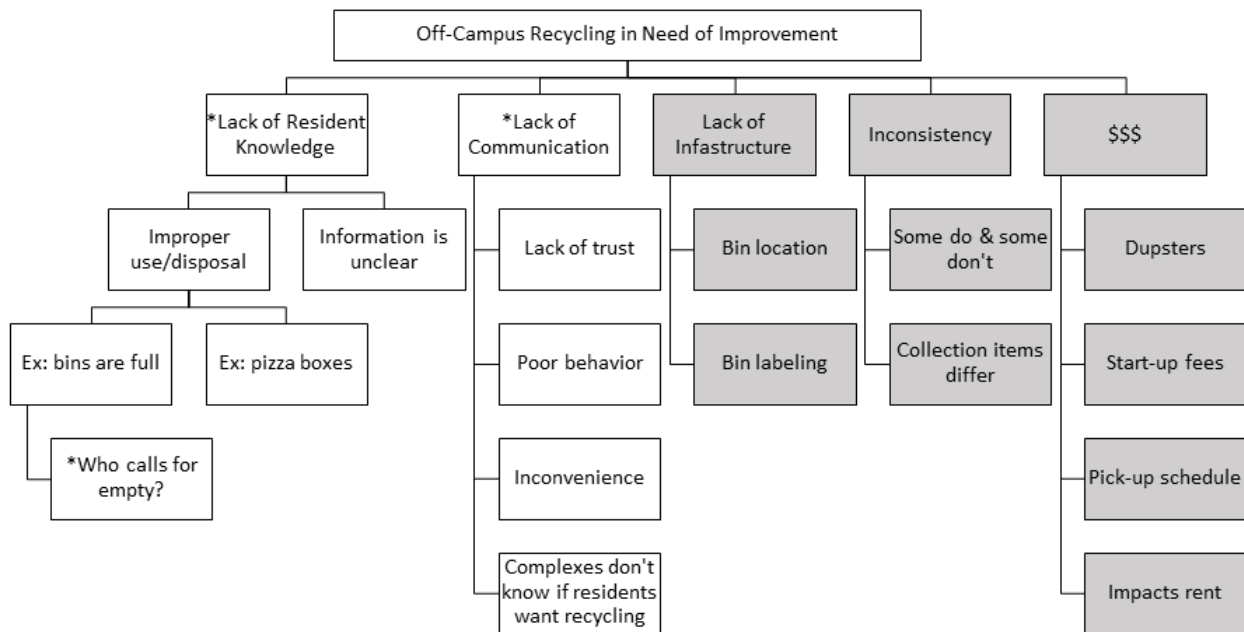
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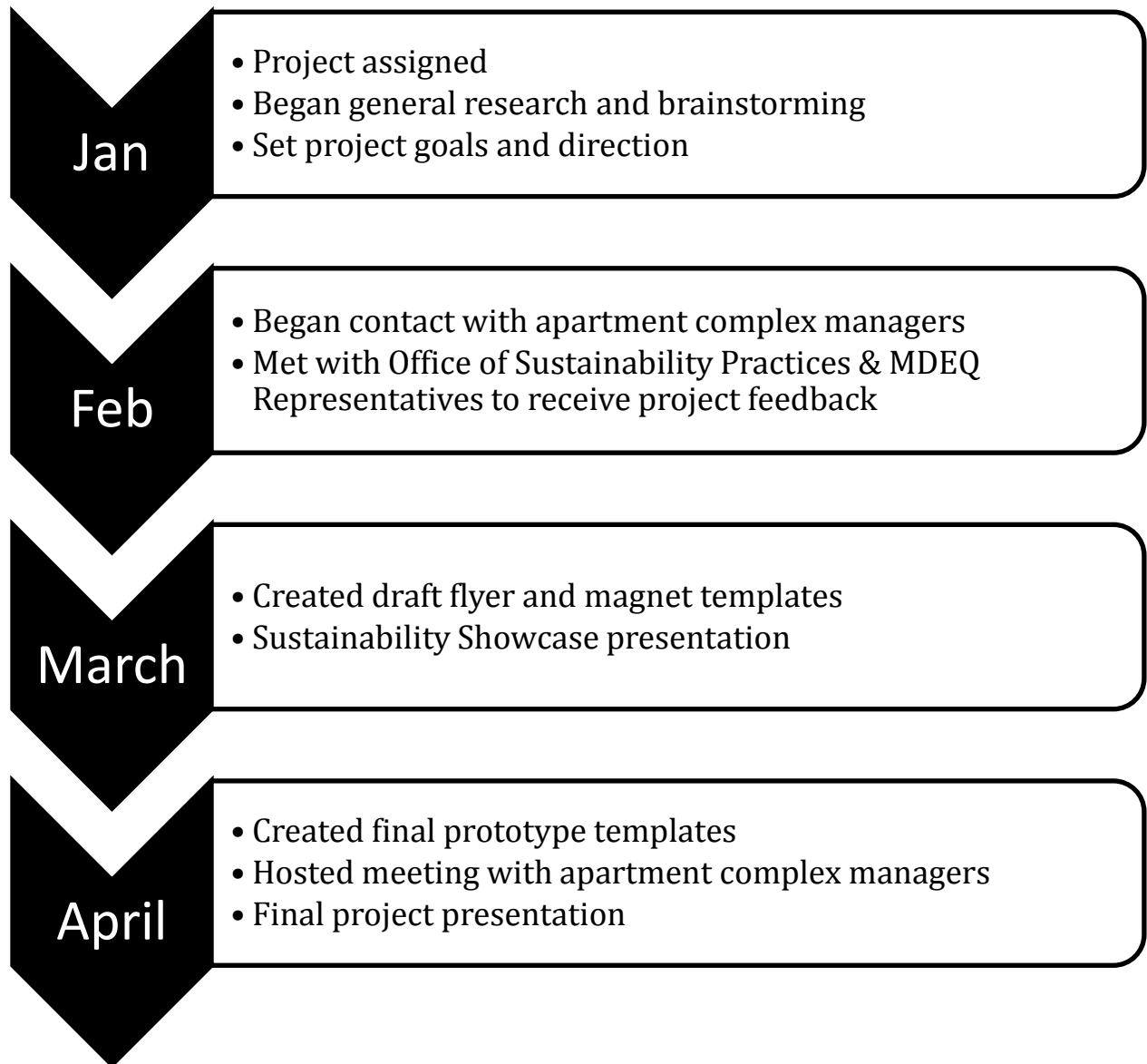
Problem Analysis:

There are a lot of factors that contribute to recycling practices and policies, which means there are many areas we could choose to focus on. Therefore, in order to identify the best approach for our team, we participated in brainstorming sessions. The following chart is the outcome of those sessions. As evident, there are clear links between a variety of current issues. Split into two categories, the items in gray represent aspects Environmental Studies Capstone students do not have control over, while the items in white are issues that are controllable and need change. For obvious reasons, we chose to focus on the aspects we have some control over. By examining the chart, we realized the core issues for recycling are a lack of education, and a lack of communication. This lead us to our final problem statement.




Problem Statement:

“Residents of Grand Valley’s off-campus apartment complexes are in need of clear education of the proper uses of existing recycling infrastructure in order to maximize effectiveness.”



Metrics

	Campus View	Campus West	Copper Beech	Meadows	Trio	48 West
Number of Residents	~1000	709	~900	~740	~950	920
What can be recycled	Mixed	Mixed	N/A	Paper only	Mixed	One mixed bin, one paper only bin
Waste Company	Waste Management	Potluck Pick-Up	Waste Management	Republic	Waste Management	Republic
Number of Bins	1	1	16 - waste	1	3	1
Pickup Schedule	When called in	Wednesday	Tuesday, Thursday	When Full	Tuesday	

Solutions:

Plan- create an informational refrigerator magnet to be placed in apartment units.

Elaboration- In order to focus on communicating information to residents and apartment complex management in a realistic fashion, the final plan is to create a template for a refrigerator magnet that can be tailored to every apartment complex which communicates the basics of recycling in that complex. This magnet is meant as a permanent item on the refrigerator in every apartment in order to be present and on the minds of residents in the area of their home where they are most likely to recycle and accumulate the highest number of recyclable items.

48 West- *Jee Park*

Phone: (616) 895-2400

Email: jpark@achliving.com

Meadows Crossing- *Karen Kilmer*

Phone: (616) 892-2700

Email: karn@meadowscrossing.net

Campus West- *Nichol Garnsay*

Phone: (616) 895-5904

Email: nichol@campuswest.net

Trio Townhomes- *Rick Lyons*

Phone: (616) 466-7844

Email: rick@yourtrio.com

Copper Beech- *Kayla Lloyd*

Phone: (616) 895-2900

Email: klloyd@achliving.com

Campus View-

Phone: (616) 895-6678

Magnets:

How to Recycle in 48 West

Current Recycling Bins at 48 West

Accepted Materials:

- Paper
- Plastics
- Cardboard Boxes

Not Accepted Materials:

- Pizza Boxes
- Orange Juice/Almond Milk Containers
- Plastic Shopping Bags



Republic Waste Services
Call 48 Main Office if Bin is Full
(616) 895-2400

Republic Waste Services
Call 48 Main Office if Bin is Full
(616)-895-2400



Not Accepted

- Pizza boxes
- Wax or foil-lined cartons
- Plastic Bags




Recycling Guide



Accepted


- Paper
- Plastic
- Cardboard

Flyers:



How can you recycle?

Apartment Logo



Bins full?

picks up on:

Questions/Concerns

Contact info:

What cannot be recycled?

- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam™ Food/Beverage Containers and Shipping/Packing Material
- Food Waste
- Wet or Food-Soiled Paper
- Waxed Paper Plates, Cups, and Takeout Containers
- Greasy Paper Boxes
- Tissues, Paper Towels, and Napkins
- Light Bulbs
- Petroleum and Non-Consumer Glass
- Electronics
- Cancer Squib (X-rays and similar)
- Garden Hoses
- Nails/nails and Springs

What can be recycled?

PLASTICS
Emptied and rinsed - caps are OK

- All Food and Beverage Containers
- Food Plastics: Tearable Containers
- Plastics: Cold Drink Cups and Lids
- Shrink and Shrinkage Wrappers
- Plastic Pails, Buckets, Garden Pots

METALS
Emptied and rinsed

- Aluminum: Beer and Tin Cans
- Empty Food Cans
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Metal Tins and Empty Dishes
- Tin Lids and Bottle Caps
- Clean Aluminum Pail

PAPER

- Newspapers and Inserts
- Magazines, Brochures, and Catalogs
- Junk Mail: Envelopes, Heavy Paper
- Single Paper
- Paper Bags
- Phone Books
- Paperback Books
- Shipping Cartons, GSK (Ships non-medical)

GLASS
Emptied and rinsed - caps are OK

- All Bottle and Cans

CARDBOARD
Flattened on top of pieces and feet

- Crumpled Cardboard Shipping Boxes
- Corrugated Boxes
- Paper-Towel Rolls
- Egg Cartons
- Dry Food Boxes

CARTONS
Emptied and rinsed

- Milk
- Juice
- Ice Cream
- Wine
- Beer

Results:

Campus View, Campus West, Meadows, and Trio did not attend the meeting. 48 West and Copper Beech were the two attendees. 48 West was very receptive of the magnet idea, but overall was unsure if their residents cared about recycling. The reason cited for this was that it is finals week, so we believe she may not have understood the scope or purpose of our project, and it may have been a misunderstanding. We had the best results with Copper Beech, as she was very interested in our project and open to further communication. The management at Copper Beech are hoping to incorporate recycling infrastructure into their complex next year. They were also very receptive of the magnet idea, and she brought up the idea of hosting an event to teach their residents how to properly use the new recycling bins when they get them.

Comments & Suggestions:

- Conduct another meeting wherein all off-campus apartment complexes can be present
- It would be beneficial to take a survey of apartment complex residents to gain a better understanding of things like:
 - How much recycling influences where residents live
 - If residents care about recycling
 - If residents want recycling
 - If residents would be willing to spend more to have recycling in their complex
- Create a presentation tailored to each complex about how to recycle their
- Conduct a survey to gain knowledge and statistics to inform complexes of their residents' interest in recycling at their complex

Future Steps:

- Hand over templates to complexes
- Give final report to Office of Sustainability Practices
- Pass on project to future students/campus connections
- Continued follow up with complexes, specifically Copper Beech
- Conduct another meeting next year with all apartment complex representatives present