Off Campus Recycling

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Off-Campus Recycling

ENS 401-Environmental Problem Solving

Grant Borregard, Tori Graves, Paul Lamphere, Cassie Pataro, Mara Spears
Winter 2017
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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.”
ENS 401: Off-Campus Recycling

Timeline

Jan
- Project assigned
- Began general research and brainstorming
- Set project goals and direction

Feb
- Began contact with apartment complex managers
- Met with Office of Sustainability Practices & MDEQ Representatives to receive project feedback

March
- Created draft flyer and magnet templates
- Sustainability Showcase presentation

April
- Created final prototype templates
- Hosted meeting with apartment complex managers
- Final project presentation
**Metrics**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Campus View</th>
<th>Campus West</th>
<th>Copper Beech</th>
<th>Meadows</th>
<th>Trio</th>
<th>48 West</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Residents</td>
<td>-1000</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>-900</td>
<td>-740</td>
<td>-950</td>
<td>920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What can be recycled</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Paper only</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>One mixed bin, one paper only bin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Bins</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 - waste</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickup Schedule</td>
<td>When called in</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Tuesday, Thursday</td>
<td>When Full</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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

Flyers:

How can you recycle?

Bins full?

picks up on:

Questions/Concerns
Contact info:

What cannot be recycled?
- Meat
- Frost Storage: Containers and Roping Threading Material
- Wax Coated Paper
- Televisions, and Entertainment Equipment
- Computers, Printers, and Peripherals
- Other Electronic Equipment
- Styrofoam
- Mattresses
- Tomato Paste, Sauce, and Spaghetti
- Tires
- Gas Cylinders
- Empty Paint Cans and Sprays
- Aerosol Cans
- Combustible Dust
- Plastic Bags
- Rubber Bands
- Batteries
- Small Mirrors
- Glass Jars

What can be recycled?

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic
- Glass
- Wax Coated Paper
- Aluminum
- Steel
- Mixed.Repositories
- Bottles
- Cans
- Aluminum Foil
- Cans
- Cans
- Cans
- Cans
- Cans
- Cans
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:
  o How much recycling influences where residents live
  o If residents care about recycling
  o If residents want recycling
  o 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 ther
• 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