**Note to Interested Future Groups**

Our project grew out of the dissatisfaction of seeing fellow students commonly misuse the waste bins in campus dining locations, such as throwing chips bags into the recycle. While it’s great that the university has a system of compost, landfill, and recycling bins in place all across campus, it is clear that they are not entirely efficient. Our main target involved the signage that labeled each bin, as we felt that they lacked great graphic design when attempting to explain what went in the bin. In other words, the signs were mediocre, and did not do a great job in getting students to use the bins in a proper way.

Breaking it down briefly…

We focused solely on the Allendale Campus.

We established communications with Campus Dining (but make sure to contact facilities, as apparently they are in charge of the actual bins)

We had a 3-step process to gather information: **Observe, Survey, Interview**

We ended up cutting our survey portion, but feel free to expand on our original questions and ideas with that. Overall however, we felt that the interview portion garnered the most valuable information from students on the issue.

After we gathered this information, we designed new signs, and displayed multiple versions in the campus dining locations. This was called the **Testing Phase**.

From our project, we gathered plenty of photos of the bins, as well as quotes from the general student body with their opinion on the topic. Although we did not fully solve the issue, we believe that the solution does involve the creation of better signs, as well as their proper display in the dining halls. People will certainly tell you, “It doesn’t matter what sign you do, nobody will read them!”

Please do not listen to that, as they are so so wrong. People *will* read signs if they are well designed, basic, and properly displayed. People do read things like stop signs…right?

**SOME SUGGESTIONS:**

* We tested Kirkhof and Kleiner, but I would expand the project to include other locations on-campus
* We only designed two distinct variations of signs, maybe create more versions?
* In addition to those new signs, perhaps you could hold a poll and ask the student population which version they like the best?
* We focused more on visual data, rather than scientific, or hard data. Perhaps future groups can weigh the bins, sort them out, and figure out the difference before/after the new signs?
* After you establish results, contacting the Lanthorn about the project would be a great idea to raise awareness about environmental things on campus

Good Luck!

-Joe, Dan, Chris

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