



Recycling on Campus



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Why Recycling?

Recycling is a vital practice that helps conserve our planet's resources and reduce the environmental impact of waste. By separating recyclable materials like paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum from our trash and sending them to recycling facilities, we can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Recycling not only conserves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions but also helps create new products from old ones, promoting a circular economy. Our school is in a unique position to take our monetary privilege and make a difference in our community; providing more jobs, reducing waste, and saving the planet.





Recycling Solutions

More Bins Around Campus

Having both trash and recycling bins available around campus and in classrooms

Labeled and Color Coded Bins

Bins with pictures of what can be put into recycling and colored for easy recognition of trash vs recycling

Education on Recycling Practices

Informing students and faculty the importance of recycling and why it should be done on campus

Factors to Recycling on Campus

01.

Environmental And Human Impact

How recycling
impacts the
environment and
Humans

02.

Budget Consciousness

The cost of recycling
programs vs the cost
of garbage

03.

Operational Efficiency

The efficiency of the
recycling program
for campus life

The Current Status of University of Tampa's recycling Program

- There is no effective labeling
- No recycling in building
- No recycling inside of trash rooms
- Recycling is sometimes thrown out
- There is a Recycling club
- Lack of Recycling advertisement

Do you think the University of Tampa does a good job ensuring we recycle?



■ Yes ■ No

Primary Research

Awarness of University of Tampa's recycling Program



■ Not at all ■ a little ■ very

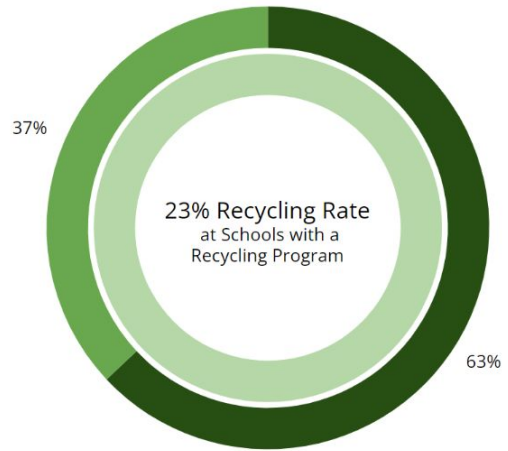
Percentage of students who do or do not recycle at the University of Tampa



■ Doesn't recycle ■ Recycles



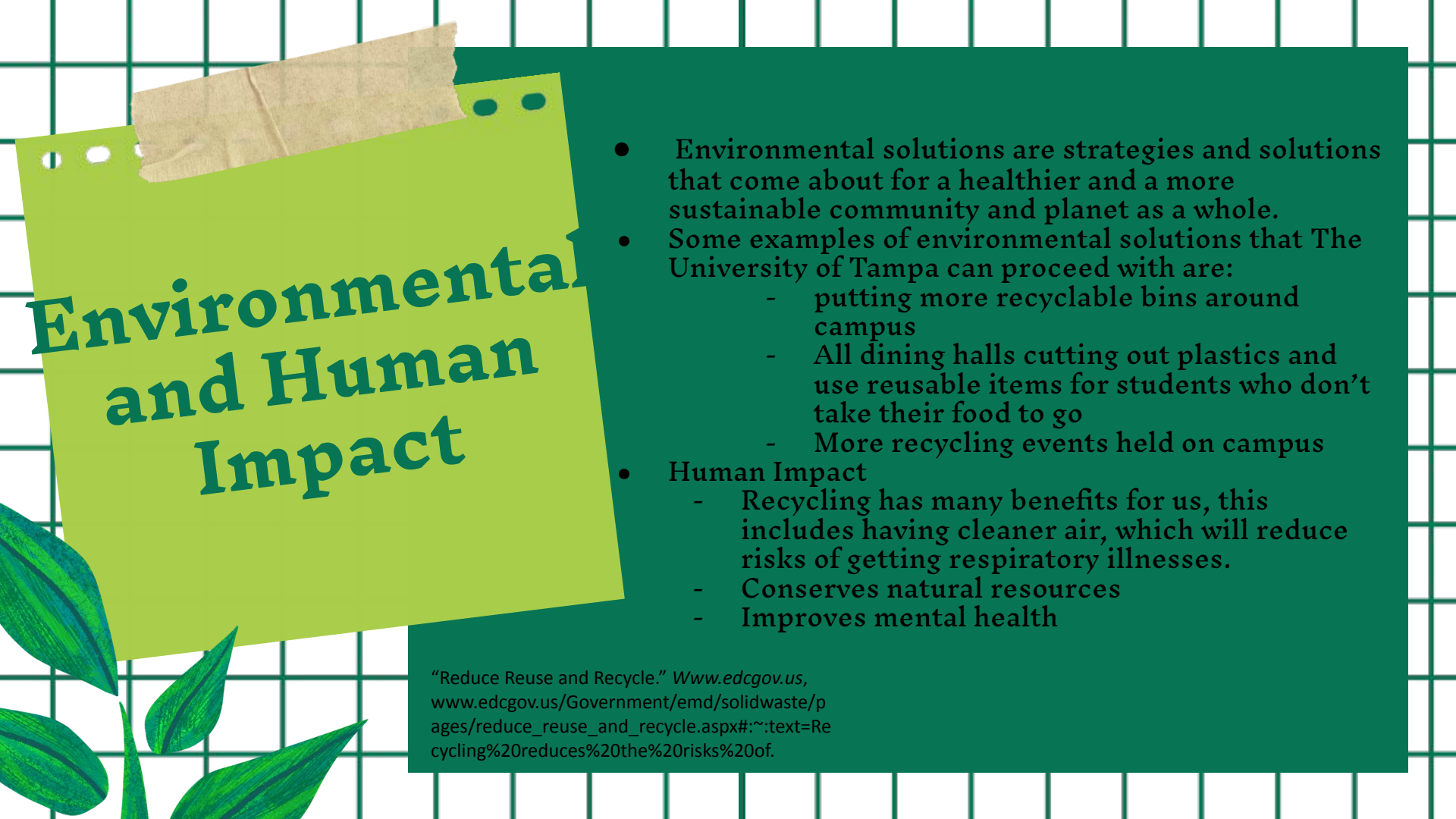
On Campus Recycling Programs in the U.S.



Data from RRS

Other Campuses Initiatives

Much like UT, other campuses have 'recycling programs' yet their recycling rates remain very low



Environmental and Human Impact

- Environmental solutions are strategies and solutions that come about for a healthier and a more sustainable community and planet as a whole.
- Some examples of environmental solutions that The University of Tampa can proceed with are:
 - putting more recyclable bins around campus
 - All dining halls cutting out plastics and use reusable items for students who don't take their food to go
 - More recycling events held on campus
- Human Impact
 - Recycling has many benefits for us, this includes having cleaner air, which will reduce risks of getting respiratory illnesses.
 - Conserves natural resources
 - Improves mental health

"Reduce Reuse and Recycle." www.edcgov.us,
www.edcgov.us/Government/emd/solidwaste/pages/reduce_reuse_and_recycle.aspx#:~:text=Recycling%20reduces%20the%20risks%20of

Operational Efficiency

- This Criteria Targets and examines the feasibility that it actually one of the biggest problems with the current recycling program at the moment
- Placing more bins around campus and inside buildings is very feasible. One student we interviewed said, “I would have totally recycled more when I lived on campus, if a recycling bin was available in the trash room of my dorm.”
- Obvious labeling for recycling bins is very feasible and universities such as Georgia Institute of Technology has done this since 2006
- Education for students and faculty is very feasible and is already taken place at the University of Tampa and even at other Universities, such as Rollins College (an hour away from Tampa)

DiLonardo, Mary Jo. “Do Labels Help People Recycle?” *Treehugger*, Treehugger, 11 May 2021, www.treehugger.com/do-labels-help-people-recycle-5184321.

Recycling Bins at Georgia Institute of Technology



Budget



More Bins Around Campus

This is a fairly budget friendly solution as some trash bins can be converted into recycling bins. Past that, more bins will cost some money, but plastic bins intended for indoor spaces are affordable and get cheaper when bought in bulk

Labeled and Color Coded Bins

Labels are very cheap to source, make, and apply to bins around campus.

Likewise, coloring outdoor recycling bins would be very budget friendly and effective for spotting the cans around campus

Education on Recycling Practices

Making recycling a conversation on campus and initiating teaching on recycling practices to be implemented in daily life through freshman seminar classes and biannual workshops on campus

Earth Talk. "The Pros and Cons of Recycling: Recycling programs cost cities less if managed correctly" *ThoughtCo.*,

<https://www.thoughtco.com/benefits-of-recycling-outweigh-the-costs-1204141>. Accessed 17 May 2024.

Call To Action

- **Increase recycling bins:** Advocate for more properly labeled recycling containers on campus, particularly in residential areas and dining halls, to make recycling more accessible and simple.
- **Eliminate single-use plastics:** Promote the use of reusable plates and utensils in eating establishments while campaigning against the use of single-use plastics.
- **Engage in recycling events:** Participate in and arrange recycling awareness activities to help educate and inspire the college community.
- **Educational outreach:** Learn and discuss the advantages of recycling; raise awareness via campus media and activities.
- **Demand transparency and efficiency:** Ensure that the institution offers recycling updates and advocates for efficient reprocessing of recyclable materials.
- **Active participation:** Use your voice in student government and planning committees to advocate for more sustainable practices and improvements to campus recycling services.



Call to Action

Enhancing Placement and labeling of recycling containers:

- Cost is low involving the purchase of bins and labels.
- Feasibility is high as there are minimal changes to existing policies.
- Impact can be potentially moderate, good container placement and labeling may boost recycling rates by making it easier and clearer.
- Community engagement is also moderate b/c This technique needs community awareness campaigns on new locations and labeling, but may not change personal habits.

Promotion of Reusable products in dining facilities:

- Cost could be high as it involves purchasing reusable items and redesigning how food is served.
- Feasibility is low b/c it depends on the willingness of dining services to alter their operations.
- Impact is high b/c as it immediately minimizes single-use plastic usage and promotes sustainable customer behavior.
- This strategy involves changes in facilities and also a cultural shift within staff and students.

Comparison

- **Immediate impact:** Recycling rates could be affected more quickly and visibly by the recycling bins, but using reusable items is likely to provide longer-term advantages.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Improving recycling containers may be a more cost-effective long-term option than switching to reusable items since the initial expenses are likely cheaper.
- **Sustainability impact:** Although both approaches support environmental sustainability, encouraging recyclable items addresses waste at its source and may have a greater overall effect on the environment.
- **Community involvement:** In order to promote reusables, more extensive community involvement initiatives may be needed, which may strengthen ties within the community and increase commitment to sustainability.



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A recycling poster featuring a large green circle in the center, set against a white background with a green grid pattern. The circle is bordered by torn brown paper at the top-left and bottom-right corners. The text "Thank you!" is written in a large, bold, dark green font inside the circle. Below it, the text "Please Remember to RECYCLE!" is written in a smaller, dark green font. To the left of the circle is a green plant with several leaves. To the right is a green glass bottle with two pink flowers and green leaves growing out of it.

Thank you!

Please Remember to
RECYCLE!