

# Easy Recycling for Apartments

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### THE PROBLEM

The City of Fayetteville does not provide recycling for most of It's apartment building residents, therefore creating much more waste headed to landfills than necessary.

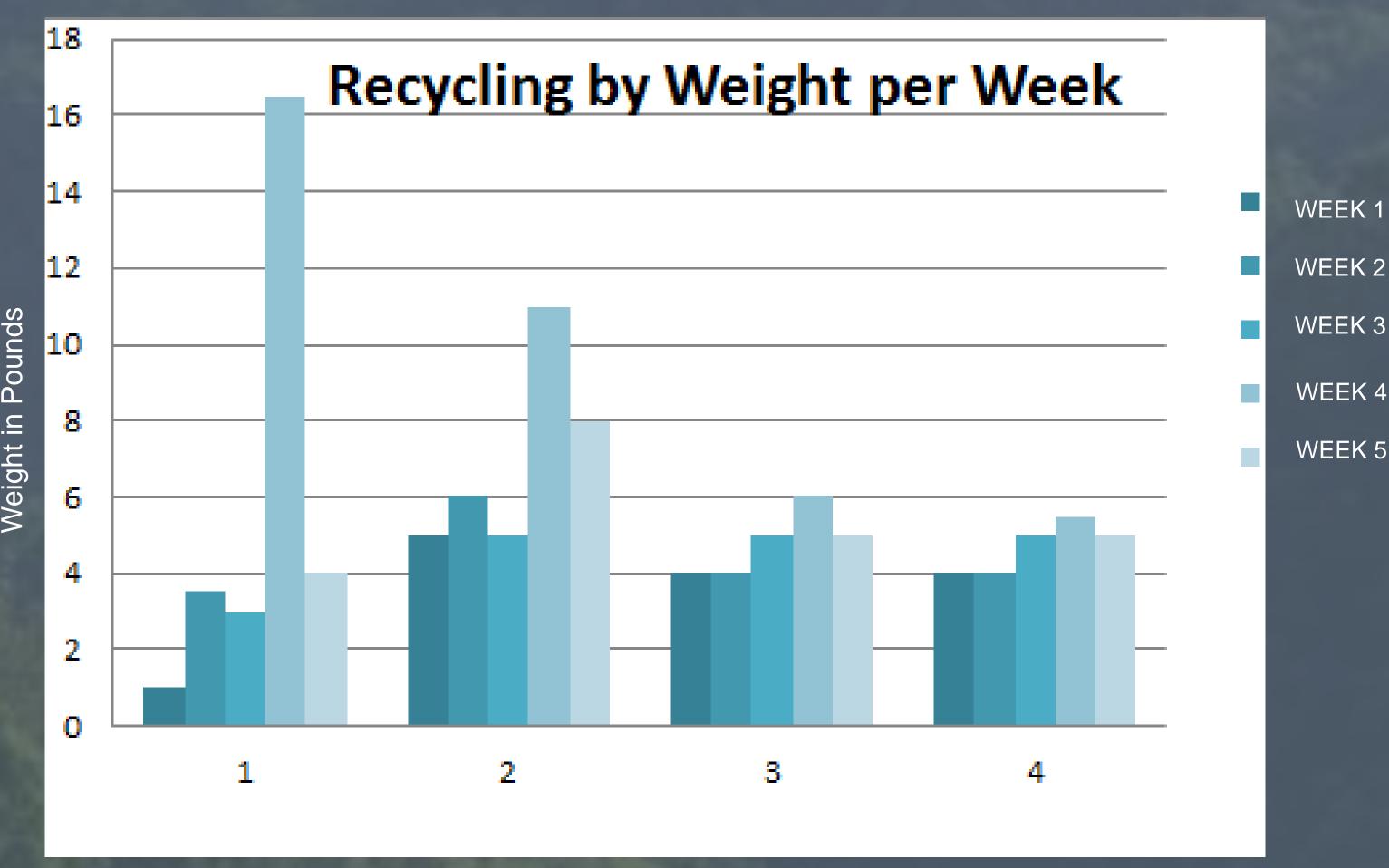
Apartment dwellers must take the initiative and collect, sort, and maintain their own recycling systems, which isn't realistic.

#### THE PROJECT

Four close friends of mine live in apartment buildings and did not recycle before they agreed to be part of my experiment. I provided each unit with one recycling bin and picked it up every Wednesday afternoon for five weeks. I then weighed, sorted, and recycled everything in there bins. I compared my data with the City of Fayetteville's to see how much waste could be saved and how much money could be earned if recycling was provided to apartment dwellers in Fayetteville.



Dropping off a full carload of recycling to the Marion Orton Recycling Center



Participants

## \$ 242,835 annually On average, the City of Fayetteville can sell it's recycled product for \$94 per pound.\*

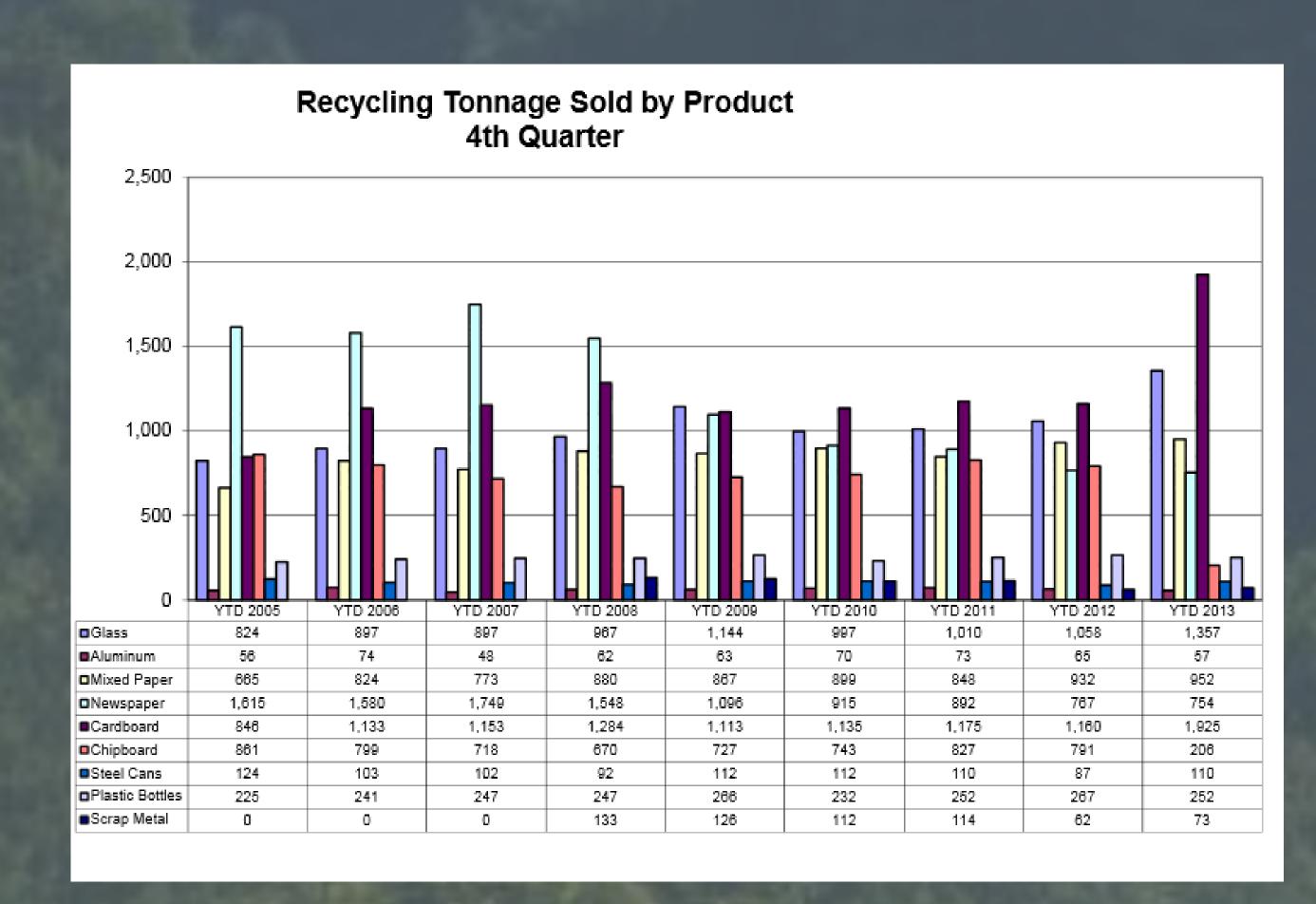


#### SUSTAINABILITY

In 2013, Fayetteville produced 60,949 tons of waste, sending it to the landfill. At a cost of \$33.80 per ton, this cost the city \$2,060,076. With over 18,000 apartment, duplexes, triplexes, etc. within city limits, that means that much of that waste is being produced by these living structures where recycling is not largely provided.\* If Fayetteville could start a successful apartment recycling program, they would save material and make a profit by selling the product, rather than throwing it away, preventing the need to make more materials and deal with distribution and production pollution.



Weighing the recycling



Source: accessfayetteville.org

This project is something that I would realistically like to work on in the future. Learning about the large scale that everything has to be managed on has given me a renewed interest in helping and planning at a community level so that projects such as these may actually have success. This is the first opportunity I have to actually make my mark on Fayetteville and the U of A, and I hope that some of my research and work can help the future of apartment recycling here and on campus.

<sup>\*</sup> source: accessfayetteville.org