



The Development of a Recycling Program for Panhellenic Formal Recruitment

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THE PROBLEM

- The University of Arkansas has made a goal to be zero waste by 2021. The Office for Sustainability is looking to help the university achieve that goal through various programs and initiatives
- Zero waste is defined as roughly 85% of materials that would have gone to the landfill being diverted in some way
- Greek life is a large part of the campus community at the University of Arkansas and as such their sustainability efforts greatly impact the zero waste goal
- Greek life's Panhellenic formal recruitment in the fall is large event that takes place within the Greek community with over 3,000 women involved
- This event generates a significant waste that could potentially be diverted, primarily through recycling

THE PROJECT

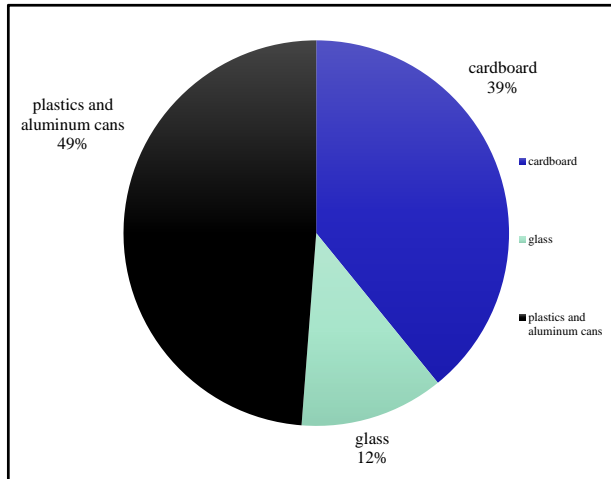
A recycling program to take place during Panhellenic formal recruitment was developed and improved upon over the course of two years to better understand the material usage of Greek life, to increase its diversion through recycling, and to see if a year long recycling program would be of merit for the Panhellenic community.

Recycling receptacles were provided to each sorority chapter and throughout the recruitment process their recyclables were collected and weighed. On bid day, clear streams were placed around the Greek theater to collect plastic and aluminum recyclables and were weighed.

THE OUTCOME

- The recycling program diverted over 825kg of material over the two years
- Created professional relationship between the Office for Sustainability and Greek life
- Lead to the development of additional sustainability projects within Panhellenic chapters

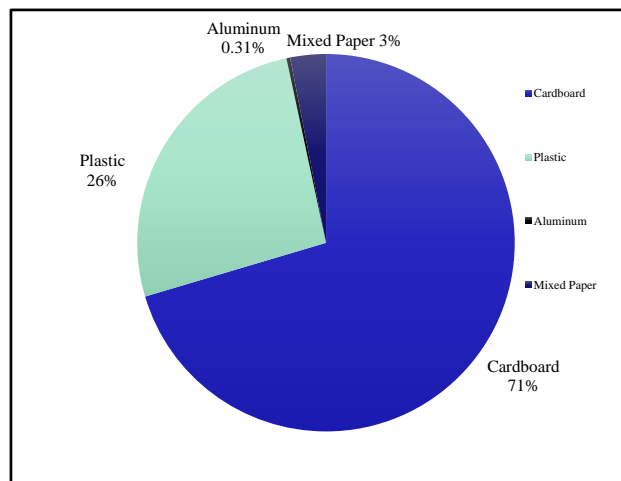
Results from year 1 of the recycling program



THE OUTCOME

- A total of 440.9kg of recyclables with 172.59kg of cardboard, 53.29kg of glass, 215.06kg of plastics and aluminum
- 97.8kg came from recyclables from Bid Day

Results from year 2 of the recycling program



THE OUTCOME

- A total of 418.4kg of recyclables with 294.54kg cardboard, 12.76kg of mixed paper, 1.33kg of aluminum, and 109.78kg of plastic
- 34.93kg came from recyclables from Bid Day

SUSTAINABILITY

- This project has contributed to the sustainability of the university through improving recycling efforts within the Greek community and helping to recycle over 825kg of materials that would have otherwise been sent to the landfill
- Additionally, through demonstrating the possibilities of recycling within the Greek life community it has lead to a new project with Greek life
- This new program works towards better communication between the Office for Sustainability and better understanding of Panhellenic sororities' material usage through the development of a position within each chapter entitled sustainability liaison
- The sustainability liaison is chosen by the chapter and their main focuses are communicating the goals of the Office for Sustainability and Greek life and facilitating any sustainability initiatives their chapters participate in
- The Office for Sustainability is working with Greek life to begin to develop programs for other groups within the Greek life community in addition to Panhellenic sororities

This project has helped me better understand the complexities of developing a university wide zero waste plan. Additionally, I have learned that an essential element to success when developing a project is communication among all members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The Office for Sustainability
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