a proposal to

IMPROVE RECYCLING *in* RESIDENCE HALLS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Arkansas is committed to achieving net-zero waste by 2040. This goal was facilitated by the University of Arkansas Office for Sustainability and signed off by Chancellor Joe Steinmetz. In order to achieve this goal, the university requires that every department contributes to this effort.

The University of Arkansas Housing Department has made significant strides to reduce and divert waste in the residence halls. Each residence hall has a recycling system unique to the hall and residents are becoming increasingly aware of how and what to recycle in their homes. While the Office for Sustainability and Residents' Interhall Congress recognizes the changes the Housing Department has made to align with the university sustainability goal of zero waste, it is largely accepted that further improvements could be made to better the current systems.

Currently, the recycling infrastructure varies across residence halls. The following report examines each building and gives an overview of the current systems. For each residence hall, information regarding the location, signage, and contents of recycling bins is presented along with corresponding photos. Problems with the current state of such recycling systems are then articulated. Comments from a multitude of residents and Resident Assistants were also collected. From the observational data collected, the overarching issues with residence hall recycling systems may be summarized as the following:

- Recycling bins and trash bins are not co-located. This does not allow a convenient option for residents and usually leads to contaminated recycling streams.

- The signage on and around recycling bins in the lobbies and on floors of residence halls is not clear. Some of the signage does not indicate what can and cannot be recycled, which contributes to the streams frequently become contaminated.

- There is not a well-functioning cardboard recycling system in any of the dorms. Most of the halls have cardboard recycling on the first floor or in the basement but there is not a dedicated cardboard recycling system on resident floors. This leads to cardboard piling up on each floor or it gets thrown away, and at times, clogs the trash chute.

- Most residents are not using their green Waste Management bags handed out to them at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year. These bags did not come with any labels or directions on how to use them. Unfortunately, this has resulted in most residents throwing them away, as their initial purpose was unclear.

Authored by: Sophie Hill
Residents' Interhall Congress Director of Sustainability
Office for Sustainability intern
Student Sustainability Coalition member
Resident Assistant

COMMUNITY STYLE HALLS

HUMPHERYS

LOCATION

Recycling bins are placed by the elevator and are approximately 20 feet away from the trash chute *(Figure 1)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Sticker placed on top of bins with correct labels *(Figure 2)*.

Contents: The stream of recyclables is relatively clear and then bins are being utilized correctly *(Figure 4)*.

ISSUES

RA Sarah Werner claims the biggest issue regarding recycling in Humphreys is that there is no cardboard recycling on each floor. Cardboard piles up and there is no signage indicating where cardboard should be placed.

Figure 2

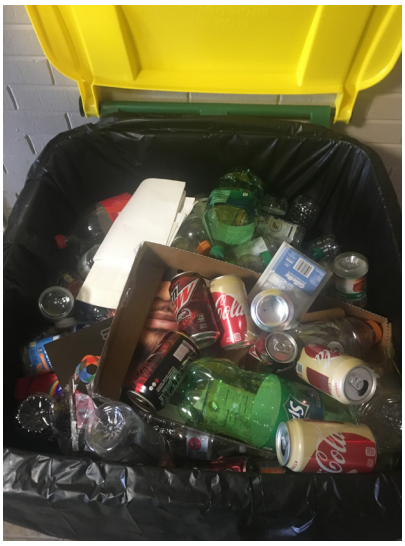

Figure 3

Figure 1

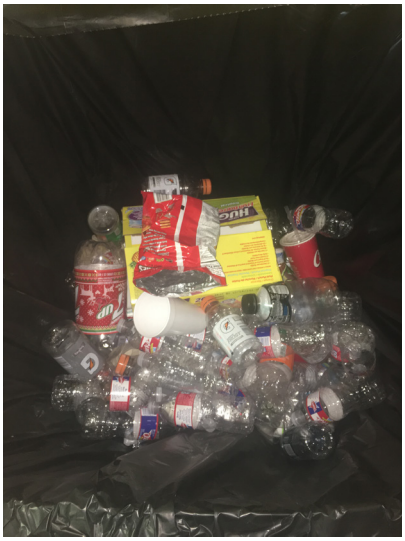

Figure 4

YOCUM

LOCATION

Similar to Humphreys Hall, each recycling bin is placed by the elevator and approximately 40 feet away from the trash chute.

Figure 5

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Sticker placed on top of bin with correct labels. Some floors have additional signage indicating that the bins are for recycling only and "NOT TRASH" *(Figure 5).*

Contents: The majority of recycling bins are not being utilized properly. While some recyclable materials end up in the bins, the bins are predominately littered with trash *(Figure 6 and 7).*

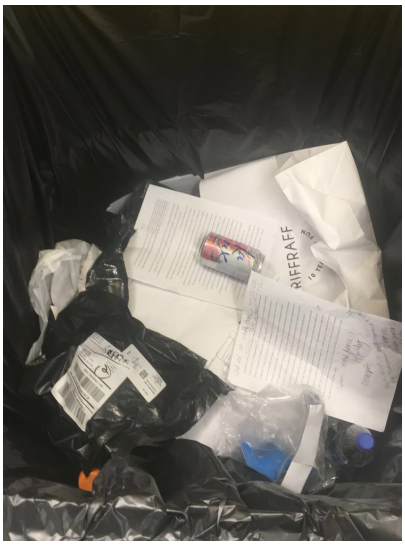

Figure 6

ISSUES

Cardboard piles up, especially on the weekends.

Although there is proper signage, the majority of the streams are contaminated.

Figure 7

HOTZ

LOCATION

Recycling bins are across the hallway from the trash chute, approximately thirty feet apart *(Figure 8)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The three bins are labeled "plastic, aluminum" individually and a sole sign indicates what materials can be recycled and what cannot *(Figure 9)*.

Contents: Floor and lobby streams are being utilized correctly for the most part *(Figure 10)*, despite some contamination in the floor bins *(Figure 11)*.

ISSUES

Hotz RA Sophie Hill claims that it would be more convenient if each floor had cardboard recycling. A lot of the cardboard in the building is not recycled right now because the only cardboard recycling system is in the basement. The trash chutes sometimes get clogged with cardboard pizza boxes and cardboard packaging.

Signage is an issue on each floor. There are no signs that specifically indicate what can and cannot be recycled and this has led to waste contamination and a lack of utilization of the bins.

Figure 9

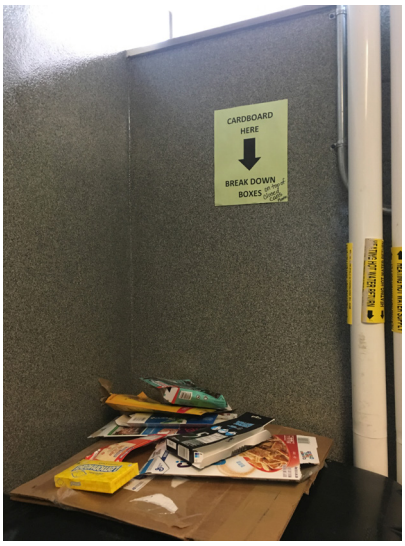

Figure 10

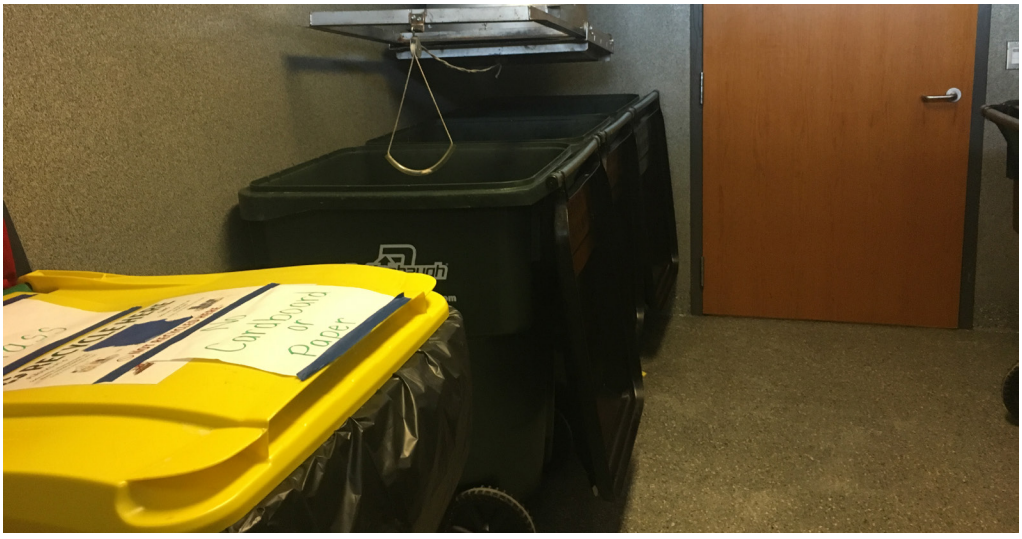

Figure 8

Figure 11

FOUNDERS

LOCATION

On each floor recycling bins are placed inside the trash room next to the trash chute. In the lobby the bins are next to the front desk and not co-located next to a trash can *(Figure 12)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The standard Waste Management graphic is placed on top of each bin on each floor. The lobby graphics are sparse but each bin is color coded and labeled properly *(Figures 13 and 14)*.

Contents: The bins are not used as much in this building. Residents are confused on where to place cardboard recycling contents, as some of them end up in the bins that strictly state that cardboard is not allowed. Cardboard recycling is not on each floor and frequently gets left in the trash room *(Figure 15)*.

ISSUES

Resident Sydney Goulding claims that she has never been told where the cardboard recycling location is in Founders Hall. It is not on each floor and residents frequently throw their cardboard away in the trash chute.

Signage in the lobby needs to be improved. There is almost no indication of what items can and cannot be placed in the bins.

Figure 13

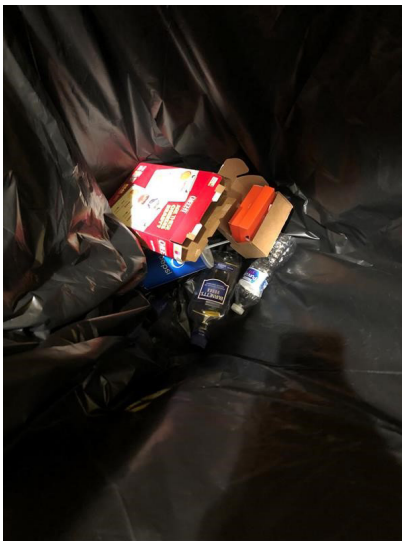

Figure 14

Figure 12

Figure 15

REID

LOCATION

Lobby recycling is not located near a trashcan *(Figure 16)*. Recycling on each floor is located in the elevator lobby and is around the corner from a small trash bin *(Figure 17 and 18)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Lobby recycling is well-labeled and has clear pictures of what can and cannot be recycled for each bin. There is also the Waste Management sign above the bins. Floor recycling bins have numerous signs indicating what to do and what contents can be recycled *(Figure 16 and 17)*.

Contents: The bins appear to be rarely used. Despite this, the streams are mostly contaminated with foam and cardboard *(Figure 19)*.

ISSUES

While signage in the lobby is sufficient, overall improvements could be made to signage for specific items (e.g., cardboard).

Resident Rebecca Moss says that the hall does not have any cardboard recycling and most residents throw cardboard in the recycling bins because they do not know where else to put it.

Resident Assistant Liane Birmingham says that the Reid Hall trash chutes are permanently closed and the trash room closes every night at ten pm. This leads residents to throw waste away in the recycling bins, thus leading to contamination of the streams.

Figure 16

Figure 17

Figure 18

Figure 19

GREGSON

LOCATION

The main recycling system is located in the basement *(Figure 20)*. The trash chute is approximately 20 feet away. Each floor in the building does not have one main recycling bin. Instead, residents use their green Waste Management bags and place them outside of their rooms *(Figure 22)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The basement recycling system has a sign indicating what can and cannot be recycled in each bin *(Figure 21)*. The floor recycling system is absent of any signage.

Contents: The majority of contents in the green Waste Management bags on each floor are recyclable but there is still a good bit of contamination possibly due to the lack of signage on each floor. The basement stream is minimally contaminated.

ISSUES

There is not a place where residents can recycle cardboard on each floor nor in the basement.

The lack of signage and a common bin on each floor is inefficient and will continue to lead to contaminated streams and less usage of the recycling systems.

Figure 21

Figure 20

Figure 22

GIBSON

LOCATION

The lobby recycling system has the aluminum and plastic bins next to each other and the paper bin is on the other side of the lobby about thirty feet away *(Figure 23 and 25)*. There is not a trash can nearby. The floors do not have recycling systems.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: There is proper signage in the lobby, but the paper signage is not close to the paper recycling bin. The floors do not have recycling systems *(Figure 24)*.

Contents: For the most part, the lobby streams are clear and the bins are being used properly *(Figure 26)*.

ISSUES

The location of bins in the lobby is not ideal. The recycling bins should be grouped together and located next to a trashcan.

There is not a floor by floor recycling system.

There is no evidence of a cardboard recycling system in the building.

Figure 24

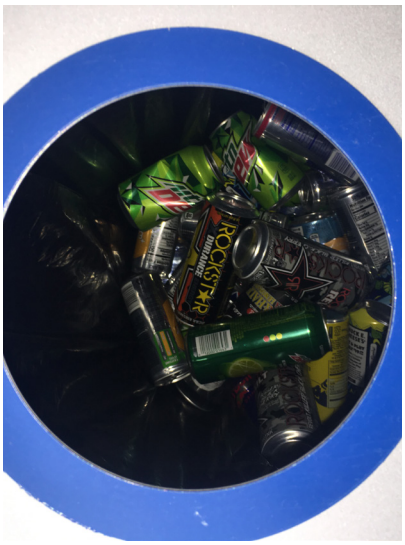

Figure 25

Figure 23

Figure 26

POMFRET

LOCATION

Location: Recycling bins are located by the front door entrance in the current main lobby *(Figure 27)*. Floor recycling bins are located in the floor lobbies *(Figure 28)*. Cardboard recycling is located outside the main elevator lobby in B wing and by the main office for C and D buildings.

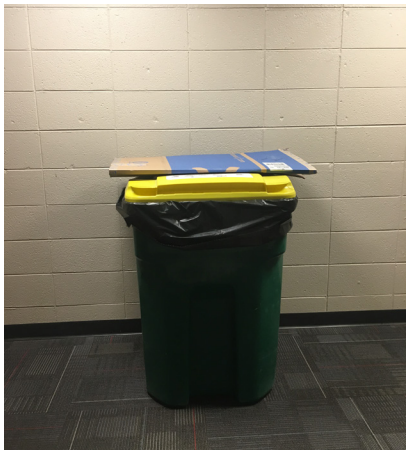

Figure 28

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The lobby recycling bins do not have any signage indicating what can and cannot be recycled, aside from the vague labels on the tops of bins. Floor recycling bins have the Waste Management signs on the tops of bins *(Figure 29)*.

Contents: Lobby streams are relatively clear, with some contamination. The floor recycling bins are mostly contaminated with cardboard and other waste that cannot be recycled *(Figure 30)*.

Figure 29

ISSUES

Cardboard is making its way into the main recycling streams on each floor and contaminating the whole stream.

Resident Assistant Grace Goedeker says that cardboard recycling on each floor is a large issue and most residents are confused about where they should place their cardboard waste.

Figure 27

Figure 30

WALTON

LOCATION

The main recycling bins are located in the lobby next to the building entrance *(Figure 31)*. Another set of recycling bins are located near the entrance, closer to the front desk *(Figure 32)*.

Figure 31

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Each of the bins closest to the entrance are color coded, although the labels themselves are vague *(Figure 31)*. Each set of bins have colorful signs indicating what can be recycled. There are no photos or examples of what can and cannot be recycled.

Contents: According to Resident Assistant Denver Eager the contents of the bins are usually not contaminated.

ISSUES

Resident Assistant Eager says that the biggest issue is that Walton Hall had to localize their recycling system to the middle of the building. They removed floor recycling systems because it became a hassle for the maintenance staff.

Cardboard recycling is messy and there is no clear bin/cart to place cardboard waste in. It piles up in the lobby, especially on the weekends.

Figure 32

HOLCOMBE

LOCATION

The color-coded three-bin system is located in the lobby by the front entrance of the building *(Figure 33)*. They are near a trash can but not co-located. The Waste Management bins are located on every floor *(Figure 37)*. These are not directly next to a trash chute. Another recycling system for paper, plastic, aluminum cans, and newspaper is located in the basement by the laundry machines *(Figure 34)*. There is also a blue bin for cardboard in this system *(Figure 34)*. There is not a trash can co-located next to the system.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The three-bin system in the lobby has vague signage stating the contents which can be recycled in each *(Figure 33)*. The blue bin for plastics provides examples and images of what can be recycled *(Figure 33)*. The bins in the basement do not have any specific signage, only, a sign that states "Recycle only" *(Figure 34)*. The Waste Management sign is used for the floor bins *(Figure 36)*.

Contents: There is some contamination in the bins on individual floors *(Figure 35)*. The lobby bins are not utilized as much.

ISSUES

Resident Assistant Jayme McCarty claims that most residents contaminate the recycling bins on each floor with food waste due to lack of education on what can and cannot be recycled.

Figure 33

Figure 34

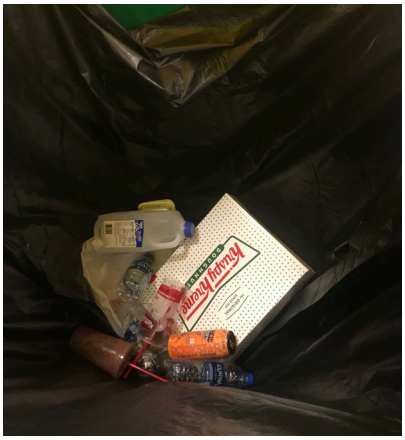

Figure 35

Figure 36

Figure 37

FUTRALL

LOCATION

Futrall Hall has a recycling system in the basement for paper, aluminum cans, plastic, and newspapers *(Figure 39)*. There is a trashcan approximately 30 feet away around the corner. The other main recycling system is located next to the main entrance and is not near a trash can *(Figure 38)*. Cardboard recycling is in a different location that is not advertised. There are not recycling systems on the floors.

Figure 39

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: There is not sufficient signage in the basement or the main lobby. There is a vague sign from Waste Management in the basement, but this system is not maintained *(Figure 41)*.

Contents: More than half of the contents in the basement and lobby recycling bins are contaminates *(Figures 40 and 41)*. Most people are throwing trash in the bins or incorrectly placing recyclable materials in the wrong bins.

Figure 40

ISSUES

Resident Assistant Caroline Crawford says the cardboard recycling system is not well advertised. She also says that the lack of recycling bins on each floor is an issue and does not allow for students to have options. RA Crawford also stresses the lack of recycling signage and contamination this leads to in the building.

Figure 38

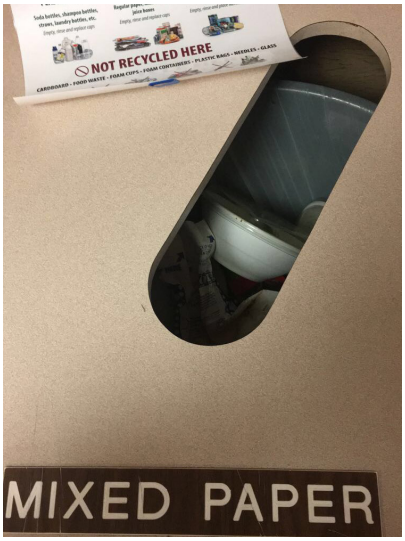

Figure 41

SUITE STYLE HALLS

NORTHWEST QUAD A

LOCATION

Quad A has a three bin recycling system in the lobby of the first floor by the entrance *(Figure 42).* This is also where residents are required to break down and place cardboard. Floor recycling containers are located in the trash rooms right next to the trash chutes on each floor *(Figure 45).*

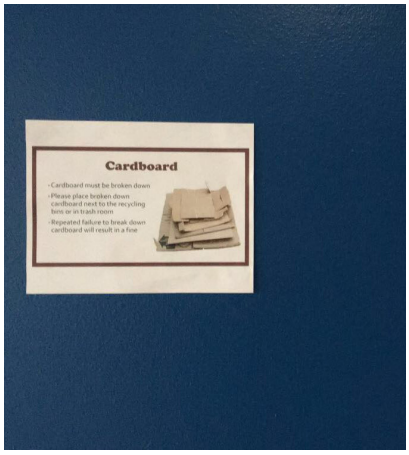

Figure 43

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Lobby recycling containers are color coded, however, the labels themselves are vague *(Figure 42).* Cardboard signage in the lobby is more specific, indicating where and how to break it down *(Figure 43).* Floor recycling bins have proper signage that clearly indicates what can and cannot be recycled with photo examples *(Figure 45).*

Contents: Mostly clear with a few contaminating items in floor and lobby systems *(Figure 44).*

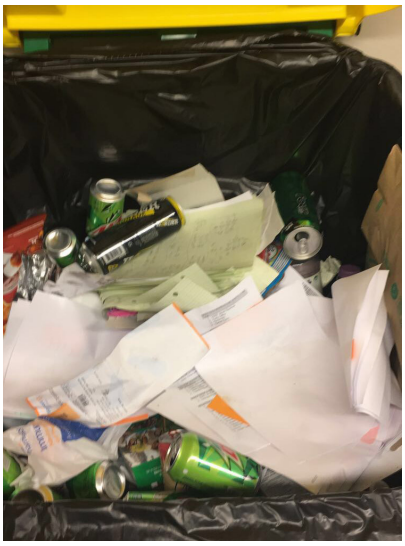

Figure 44

ISSUES

Cardboard recycling piles up in the lobby and is not organized. Each floor lacks a cardboard recycling system.

Resident Assistant Victoria Radke claims that the biggest issue is that bins get contaminated because there is not an accessible trash bin nearby.

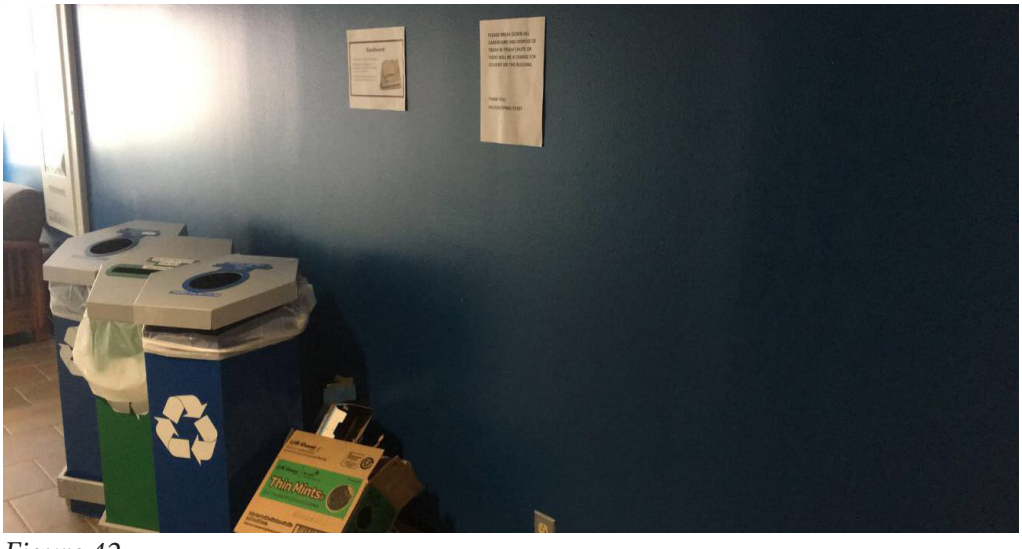

Figure 42

Figure 45

NORTHWEST QUAD B

LOCATION

Lobby recycling bins are located directly outside of Fulbright Dining Hall and has one big bin in elevator lobby *(Figure 46 and 48)*. The floor recycling systems have cardboard recycling next to bins *(Figure 48 and 50)*.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Lobby recycling bins have minimal signage. Floor recycling systems have detailed posters with directions on what can and cannot be recycled *(Figure 49)*.

Contents: The waste streams in the lobby and on the floors are mostly clear, but cardboard recycling is unorganized and piles up *(Figure 47 and 48)*.

ISSUES

Resident Assistant Sandra Ezigbo claims that cardboard recycling is the biggest issue and residents are unsure of where to place their cardboard waste. She says cardboard piles up on each floor on the weekends.

Figure 46

Figure 47

Figure 48

Figure 49

Figure 50

NORTHWEST QUAD C

LOCATION

Bins are located on the first floor of the lobby by the entrance *(Figure 51)*. Bins are located next to each other, but there is not a trash can nearby. Similarly to Quad A, floor recycling systems are located in the trash rooms next to the trash chutes.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Similarly to the other Quad buildings, proper signage is placed above the bins and it clearly states what can and cannot be recycled *(Figures 52 and 53)*. The bins in the lobby are color coded.

Contents: For the most part, the recycling streams are not contaminated *(Figure 54)*. Although, there are still issues with waste ending up in the streams as some residents do not know exactly what can be recycled in residence halls.

ISSUES

There is not a floor specific cardboard recycling system.

Bins are not collocated with trash cans.

Some streams are contaminated, lack of educational materials for residents could be contributing to this.

Figure 52

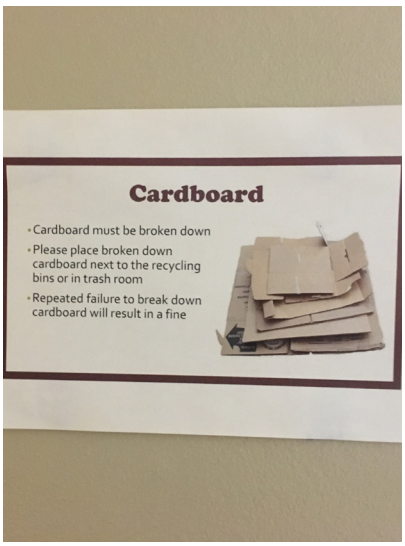

Figure 53

Figure 51

Figure 54

MAPLE HILL EAST *AND* WEST

LOCATION

Lobby recycling is located in community kitchen/recreation room *(Figure 55).* The nearest trashcan is outside of the building. Floor recycling bins are located in the trash rooms next to the trash chutes *(Figure 56).*

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: Signage is consistent on each the floor bins and the lobby bins. The Waste Management graphic is placed on top of the lids of the recycling bins *(Figure 56).* The floor recycling systems have extra signage indicating that cardboard can only be recycled on the first floor *(Figure 59).*

Contents: Most of the items placed in recycling bins are trash, thus, the bins become contaminated *(Figures 57 and 58).*

ISSUES

Maple Hill recycling streams are usually contaminated. This could be due to a lack of education, vague signage, inaccessible recycling for cardboard materials.

Figure 55

Figure 56

Figure 57

Figure 58

Figure 59

MAPLE HILL SOUTH

LOCATION

Lobby recycling is in the main lobby next to the elevator *(Figure 60)*. There is a green Waste Management bin for co-mingled goods and a gray bin for cardboard *(Figure 60 and 61)*. There is not a trashcan located nearby. Floor recycling bins are located next to the elevator lobbies and the trash chute is far away from the bins.

SIGNAGE&CONTENTS

Signage: The Waste Management graphic is placed on top of the bins in the main lobby and on each floor *(Figure 65)*. The cardboard recycling bin has a large sign with the word "Cardboard" on it *(Figure 61)*. It does not indicate what kinds of cardboard are accepted.

Contents: The cardboard recycling bin in the main lobby is not usually contaminated *(Figure 63)*, but the co-mingled recycling bins in the main lobby and floor lobbies are heavily contaminated *(Figures 62 and 64)*.

ISSUES

Resident Assistant Cara Conner claims that the biggest issue is the lack of recycling education in Maple Hill South. She says that this results in contamination. Additionally, the proximity of the recycling bins to the stairwell and lack of co-location with a trash can leads residents to throw their trash in the recycling bins.

Figure 60

Figure 61

Figure 62

Figure 63

Figure 64

Figure 65

ASSESSMENT

CURRENT QUALITIES

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
• Every residence hall at the University of Arkansas provides students with the option to recycle.	• Floor recycling systems are often unorganized and inefficient.
• Each recycling receptacle is labeled with some form of information about what can and cannot be recycled.	• Northwest Quad A and B and Pomfret Hall cardboard recycling systems are consistently messy. The cardboard piles up on each floor every weekend and there is not a sufficient bin to place cardboard in (see pages 10 and 11-12).
• Most residence halls allow cardboard to be recycled on the first floor or in the basement.	• Some halls do not have recycling systems on each floor or they are not accessible (see Gregson and Gibson halls on pages 8-9).
• The University of Arkansas Housing Department implemented a recycling program for every resident in individual rooms.	• There is not cardboard recycling on every floor of every residence hall. Considering university housing facilities receives approximately 40,000 packages each semester, adequate cardboard recycling systems should be put in place on each floor.
• The Northwest Quad buildings and Gibson Hall have detailed signage in their lobbies (see pages 9 and 11-13).	• Logistics behind the individual recycling systems for each room can be improved.
• Reid Hall co-locates their recycling bins with a smaller trash receptacle next to the recycling bin (see figure 22, page 7).	• Signage is not consistent across campus residence halls. This leads to confusion about what materials can be recycled.
• Northwest Quad buildings A and C have RA bulletin boards informing residents of their recycling system details (see pages 11 and 13).	

RECYCLING TOTALS

Below are the recycling totals in each residence hall from the 2019 Recyclemania competition (February 3rd -March 30th). These numbers were sent to the Office for Sustainability by Judy Kendrick throughout the competition.

Halls	Cardboard (lbs)	Cans & Plastic (lbs)	Contami-nated (lbs)	Percent Contami-nated Per Dorm	Capacity (persons)	Content Recycled Per Person (lbs/person)
Buch Droke	82	42	-19	13%	101	1.03
Founders	27	4	-92	75%	214	-0.29
Futrall	69	11	-93	54%	193	-0.07
Gibson	17	49	-6	8%	98	0.62
Glad Rip	103	29	-40	23%	101	0.91
Gregson	105	240	-4	1%	203	1.68
Holcombe	101	65	-7	4%	143	1.11
Hotz	331	174	-13	3%	416	1.18
Humphreys	286	122	-242	37%	432	0.38
MHE	233	112	-38	10%	346	0.88
MHS	175	30	-102	33%	357	0.29
MHW	194	56	-4	2%	376	0.65
NWQ	355	266	-74	11%	603	0.91
Pomfret	670	48	-130	15%	803	0.73
Reid	282	92	-53	12%	459	0.7
Walton	56	61	-8	6%	152	0.71
Yocum	379	121	-236	32%	530	0.5
Duncan	89	91	-29	14%	196	0.77
Housing Admn	61	183	-1	0%	0	N/A
Totals	3612	1792	-1187	18%	5723	0.74

OBSERVATIONS

1. Founders Hall and Futrall Hall recycling streams are the most contaminated. This may be due to both dorms having little to no signage for each bin, and the systems are not labeled or maintained as well as some of the other hall systems.

2. Cardboard is the most commonly recycled item in every dorm, however, this does not account for the cardboard thrown away or the unorganized cardboard recycling infrastructures set in place in each hall.

- If a cardboard recycling system was implemented on each floor of every residence hall, the cardboard recycling number would likely increase, thus saving the Housing Department money in the long run.
- The current Waste Management Waste and Recycling contract with the University of Arkansas states that recycling is $57.5/ton and Class 1 solid waste is $117/ton, therefore, recycling rather than landfilling has the potential to save money.

3. Of all recycled content from Recyclemania, 6,590 pounds of materials were recycled. Of these 6,590 pounds, 1,187 pounds were contaminated.

4. During the time of Recyclemania, Housing Trash totals were 217,460 pounds. This makes the diversion rate for the months of February and March combined a 2.94%, far off from the campus diversion rate of 47% in fiscal year 2018.

BIGGEST CONTAMINANTS

Pepsi Cups

- Pepsi wax-coated paper cups from Union food court and meal trade areas
- Many students do not understand that wax-coated paper cannot be recycled

Pizza boxes

- Most students do not know that pizza boxes contaminated with grease cannot be recycled.
- Meal trade paper bags (predominantly Chick-fil-A)

Paper packaging

- Most of the shipped packages that come in envelopes have a lining of bubble wrap and cannot be recycled.
- Although cardboard can be recycled, it cannot be placed in the main Waste Management recycling bins.

SUGGESTIONS

RA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- If Housing were to create a Resident Assistant committee whose sole job was to promote recycling efforts throughout the academic year, contamination rates would likely decrease.
- What would this look like?
    - It would be best to implement this idea as a pilot program in one of the residence halls that has a higher contamination rate.
    - A Resident Assistant Sustainability Committee should consist of 2-3 RA's (depending on the size of the dorm) who have various duties throughout the year.
    - These duties could include:
        - Promoting waste aversion and diversion in their designated hall through the use of signage, passive programing, and all hall programs.
        - Making weekly rounds on each floor to collect recyclable materials from residents (similarly to the Yocum and Hotz Hall Pepsi Recycling Competition of 2018).
        - Residents would use their properly labeled Waste Management bags to collect recyclable materials and Resident Assistants on this committee would collect the materials and place them in a larger bin.
- Resident Assistants would also be responsible for having a thorough understanding of the Waste Management recycling in Housing.

IMPROVE CARDBOARD SYSTEMS

- Implement a well-structured cardboard recycling system on each floor of every residence hall.
- This will ensure that recycling streams are less contaminated. As of right now, nearly every representative from each residence hall has stressed that cardboard recycling is an issue and the current systems are not working. It is crucial to provide a convenient opportunity for students to get rid of cardboard in an environmentally conscious fashion considering the hundreds of thousands of cardboard packages that are shipped to on campus students every year.
- The best choice for a recycling system is purchasing a tall and narrow bin for each floor. This slender bin would require students to break down cardboard before placing it in, and would combat congestion within the receptacle. This choice would alleviate some of the contamination that the recycling bins and trash chutes currently face. Although costly, if maintained and used properly, University Housing would be saving money in the long run, as it is cheaper to recycle than send waste to the landfill in Fayetteville.

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL RECYCLING SYSTEMS

- At the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year Resident Assistants distributed green Waste Management bags to every room in every residence hall. The bags did not have a label attached and their purpose was unclear for the majority of students. Resulting in many residents throwing them away within the first week of the school year.

ENHANCE INDIVIDUAL RECYCLING *(CONTINUED)*

- This program can be further improved with the purchase of new bags with clear labels indicating the purpose of the bags and how to use them correctly. Ideally, bags would have a printed design indicating its purpose and what can and cannot be recycled, preferably with pictorial examples.
- A less optimal alternative would be to utilize the same green Waste Management bags but with a clear label and set of instructions attached. This would still be a significant improvement to the recycling education in the dorms and would likely lead to less contaminated streams.

IMPLEMENT COLOR-CODED SYSTEMS

- As previously observed in the floor lobbies of residence halls, the three-bin system is more efficient and allows residents more options for recycling. If cutting out holes in the current Waste Management bins is not an option, the purchasing of these bins for every floor in each hall would most likely lead to less contamination (given the three-bins are properly labeled).

CO-LOCATE BINS WITH TRASH CANS

- As of right now, most recycling bins stand alone and are not paired up with a waste option for residents. This leads to more contamination in the recycling bins because some residents will throw their waste in a recycling bin instead of going out of their way to find a trash can.
- If the three-bin system is not an option, pairing the current Waste Management bin with a smaller trashcan will maximize options for students and lead to less contamination.
- See the photo of Reid Hall *(Figure 36)* for an example.
- Make one of the four recycling slots in the built in Hotz Hall recycling systems a trash can to give students more options.

HAVE UNIFORM PROCEDURE FOR NEW AND RENOVATED HALLS

- When new residence halls are being constructed or older ones are being renovated, Housing should abide by a minimum set of standards for recycling systems.

CUT HOLES IN THE SHAPE OF RECYCLING MATERIALS ON THE TOPS OF BINS

- The best case scenario would be to get new bins with pre-cut holes. If this is not an option, the Waste Management bin lids should be sealed shut and holes should be cut on the top and the graphic should be placed above the bin on the wall.
- This would decrease the amount of contamination in bins, as residents would not be able to throw away bulk trash items.

MAKE RECYCLING SIGNAGE UNIVERSAL

- The majority of recycling signage across dorms differs. There should be clear picture examples specific to university items of what can and cannot be recycled (see page 24 for biggest contaminators). This issue likely contributes to contamination, as differing signage causes confusion. If the signage was more clear, residents would likely be more apt to utilize the

SUGGESTIONS *(continued)*

MAKE RECYCLING SIGNAGE UNIVERSAL *(CONTINUED)*

recycling systems and contamination rates could significantly decrease.

- Improved communication from upper housing members to CREs and RAs about how to effectively post recycling signage would be beneficial.
- Promote educational recycling bulletin boards through Resident Assistant passive programing.