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WHAT'S UP  
RECYC-L

Trending Topics:

Bagging of trash and recycling

Glass recycling in the South

Compostable cutlery and breakdown times

Plastic food service alternatives

Dumpster signage

Chair's Message

**Greetings CURC Members and Friends!**

In the past several months, we've welcomed another new Board member, Ryan McCaughey from Penn State and gratefully say thanks to exiting member Kaye Johnston from UM Kansas City for her service on the Board.

During my opening remarks for the CURC workshop in Minneapolis, I noted how the industry of recycling and materials management, particularly set on a collegiate venue is based on movement. For many of us, every day we focus on how to move material from campus, from a position of disposal to one of repurpose. Student populations flow into and out of the collegiate environment, each bringing what they have learned about recycling from their own communities. Each campus is challenged with figuring out how to move students and staff from a mindset of consumption to one of conservation.

The greatest asset of CURC is the community of engaged folks on campus working hard to create solutions for their campuses to reduce waste. Networking and facilitating this movement of information between campuses are some of the best ways to find camaraderie among our community and encourage better recovery and improve waste reduction on our individual campuses.

Board members convened the annual retreat just before the Fall CURC Workshop. During the retreat, we discussed CURC's core programs and audience, the need to grow from its current formation as an all-volunteer, working board to one that is able to focus primarily on governance and vision setting. This next year will be pivotal in CURC's evolution, as it moves into this phase of a non-profit's development and seeks opportunities to stabilize and strengthen the organization.

Thanks to everyone who connected with CURC in Minneapolis through the Workshop, the CURC / RecycleMania booth and at the AASHE Conference. It was great visiting both with long-time CURC folks and welcoming new members. We look

Print management

forward to meeting more of you at events next year!

### Webinar Archive

Take advantage of 3 years of CURC webinars. Members can view archived presentations and recordings on the [CURC Website](#).

### Submit Your Events!

Got any campus events you'd like to announce in the CURC quarterly newsletter? Contact [admin@curc3r.org](mailto:admin@curc3r.org).

With much gratitude,

Robyn Hathcock,  
CURC Chair  
University of Oregon Zero Waste Program

### Our Sponsors

Many thanks our current sponsors in 2015: Waste Management, CleanRiver Recycling Systems, and Alcoa Foundation.



Waste Management is proud to sponsor CURC in its recycling initiatives.



### Field Notes Notes From AASHE



CURC hosted a Zero Waste Workshop on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota on October 25, 2015 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This full-day workshop featured speakers representing a cross-section of campus recycling stakeholders including perspectives from commercial and industrial service providers as well as campus professionals. CURC would like to thank the many people involved in making the workshop happen.

A central focus of the workshop was to expand the discussion of

zero waste beyond waste minimization efforts that may only address end-of-life materials and consider life-cycle thinking that can cost-effectively reduce the negative impacts at every stage. To explore this idea, Kate Davenport, Director of Business Development with Twin Cities recycler Eureka Recycling, described their "Zero Waste Laboratory" and Clean River's Bruce Buchan discussed innovative strategies for engaging users at the bin. Lightning round presenters included Jen Maxwell of Appalachian State University, Alec Cooley of Keep America Beautiful, Eric Holthaus of the University of Iowa, Mike Carey of Orange County Community College and the USZWBC - Collegiate ZW Technical Council, Alex Freid of the Post Landfill Action Network, and Jen Jones of College of Charleston.

These professionals spoke to topics ranging from engaging the campus population - including students, administrators, faculty, and staff - in adopting zero waste initiatives to specific resources such as KAB's research into office recycling and the Zero Waste Database developed by Jen Jones & Eric Holthaus. Roundtable sessions provided a great opportunity for attendees to share their questions and ideas with each other over a variety of recycling and zero waste program topics. To wrap up the day, Dana Donatucci, Recycling Supervisor with the University of Minnesota, gave an overview of UM's comprehensive program and led a tour of their facilities.

CURC was proud to offer [Zero Waste Scholarships](#) to six student recycling and zero waste advocates to provide travel assistance and free admission to the workshop. Scholarship recipients universally praised the Workshop as being an "awesome experience" from which they left "armed with fantastic zero waste ideas." Specific discussion topics that the students appreciated included procedures to transition a campus building to zero waste, new opportunities for student engagement, insight into the complexity of a successful zero waste program, life-cycle consideration and intentional design, and opportunities and resources for personal and professional development. The CURC scholarship program is an outgrowth of a goal to mentor the next generation of professionals who will work to move campuses across the country closer to zero waste.

Based on these students' assessment of the Zero Waste Workshop, CURC is providing that service: "The last big take away item I learned during the workshop was just how important it is for campus sustainability and waste reduction leaders to get together at workshops like this and share information. The opportunity to network with so many waste reduction professionals was awesome and I think the experience of meeting, sharing ideas, and hearing about things that work on other campuses will help us to be more successful back home."

It was a real treat to see familiar faces and energizing and encouraging to meet new recycling advocates. Thanks to all

those attended. To view the Zero Waste Workshop presentations, [click here](#). Stay tuned to the [CURC website](#) for more details on upcoming workshops and webinars.



### Upcoming CURC Webinar



## Quantifying Your Waste Reduction Efforts

*How do you measure "nothing"  
to know you are doing something?*

**Thursday, December 10**

**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm ET**

### **Overview:**

At the core of waste reduction is the simple notion of consuming fewer resources. We promote waste prevention and reuse through programs, policies and education, but how do we know these have an impact generating less waste? This webinar will highlight successful waste reduction programs including how schools measure the corresponding drop in waste generation. Case study presentations will include UNC Asheville's "Shareable Campus" program, a Waste Free Office Move effort at Knox College, and Loyola University Chicago's initiative to reduce vendor packing with Reusable Totes. The program will also feature a presentation on techniques to track waste reduction and reuse activity for zero waste reporting.

**Presenters:**

- **Sonia Marcus,** UNC Asheville
- **Aaron N. Durnbaugh,** Loyola University Chicago
- **Ramona VanRiper,** Knox College
- **Rob Gogan,** Harvard University

[Click here to register now](#)

*2015 CURC Webinar Series is made possible by:*



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AASHE Poster Session Highlights

The AASHE conference featured dozens of interesting sustainability posters in the Expo hall, including over 20 campus case study posters on recycling or sustainable materials management topics. Here is a quick sampling of the ones that caught our attention.

View high resolution photos of these posters and more on CURC's [Facebook photo stream](#). Here you can find these along with photos from CURC events at the conference as well as 2014 AASHE posters.

**University of Kentucky**

*Pick It Up, help Make UK Litter-Free*

With the goal of eliminating litter of their campus, this multi-faceted campaign was developed by the Office of Sustainability to supplement and recognize the work done by campus Grounds teams to keep the University clean. To encourage engagement throughout campus, this group's campaigns include fun photo contests, an "Adopt a Spot" initiative, and their "Get Gnarly" caught blue handed incentives.

**College of Charleston**

*Developing a Model for a Residential Compost Program in Charleston SC Using the Business Model Canvas*

This study explains how this particular strategy model can be used to rapidly develop and test many different business ideas to create a residential composting program for non-college

settings. Considering all main areas of business, the student author gives examples of how to effectively and efficiently collect and manage data on the feasibility of composting.

### **University of Iowa**

#### *RecycleMania*

Using the hashtag #UIRM, this university builds momentum for their participation in the national RecycleMania campaign. With goals of zero waste sports games, this campaign focus aims to engage the whole student body. In this study, student authors discuss the program's plans of action, as well as provide collections data.

### **Carleton College**

#### *Food Recovery Network*

With the slogan of "Fighting waste, Feeding People," this network has goals to reduce food waste, address hunger, and strengthening campus and community bonds. To do so, this organization redistributes food that would otherwise unnecessarily go to waste. The student authors of this local chapter identify shocking statistics relating to Minnesota hunger and food insecurity rates as well as financial and environmental costs of US and campus food waste.

### **University of Denver**

#### *Center for Sustainability Pilot Projects*

The student authors give information on two of the Center's important initiatives. First, their Zero Waste Hockey games. Begun in 2012, this project achieved an average of 77% diversion rate throughout their 2014-2015 season, with goals of reaching an average diversion rate of 82% for 2015-2016. Their second program enables composting in campus residence halls. Begun in 2013, their first year of service diverted 1394.73 pounds of compostable products away from landfills.

### **University of Utah**

#### *Vermi-composting & Food Waste Audit*

This student author was awarded a Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund grant to implement vermi-composting units in order to address the issue of food waste in the university's Nutrition Department Food Lab. Her study includes participation data on the three months following the introduction of the vermi-composting. The author uses this data to make a case for the need to commit to reduced food waste. She continues to encourage fellow students and staff to participate in this composting to increase their commitment to environmental sustainability.

**Southwestern College***E-Waste Recycling*

These student authors describe their Green Team initiatives to collect electronic waste. By partnering with the community, they are able re-direct tens of thousands of pounds of e-waste to the company Vintage Recycling for sorting, recovery of precious metals, and refurbishing. Included in their report are details of their processes, impacts, and possible improvements to be made to increase program effectiveness.

**Southwestern College***Campus Move-Out Drive 2011-2015*

These student authors study campus wide, end of semester items collections. These collections have resulted the diversion of hundreds of pounds of unwanted items from landfills by instead donating these items to local charities. Explained are the processes, implications, benefits, and possible improvements to be made to these campus move-out drives.

**Santa Clara University***How Does Your Campus Talk Trash*

This University's sustainability program has been running for 10 years. Their current goals include identifying opportunities for improvement and education on proper waste diversion and irregular disposals, moving their campus towards zero-waste, and providing opportunities for students to engage with their Center of Sustainability. These student authors present the organizations collections data, systems of thinking, and problem/solution guides for waste disposal.

**UC Berkeley***Integrating Composting in Residential Halls*

With funding from The Green Initiative Fund, two UC Berkeley students successfully established a pilot to place recycling and composting bins inside individual rooms in one residence hall. The students implemented the project over a year and a half period, which included a mini-trash and regular-sized recycling bin as well as small 2.5 or 5 gallon compost pails. The roll out was complemented by surveys, education events and informational signage.

**Stanford University***Cardinal Green Office Program*

This campus' Office of Sustainability identifies opportunities for reducing waste, energy, and water consumption on their campus. These student authors discuss challenges and solutions, and provide saving summaries from 2011-2015.

## UNC Charlotte

### *Zero Waste Football*

In winning a Charlotte Green Initiative grant, students began a Zero Waste pilot program for the first two seasons of 2013 and 2014. With support and cooperation throughout departments, administration, food services, suppliers, and waste management, the program has been a huge success. These student authors offer details on their use of volunteers, materials, and refilling stations, as well as collections results and future goals.

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