Project Overview

• Outgrowth of previous 2016 survey of CURC members:
  
  *What technical resources needed to support efforts?*

• Response: ability to compare/ benchmark against peers

• Developed survey in fall 2017
  
  – Involved advisory panel

• Goal:
  
  – Document common practices and trends at C’s & U’s across US and Canada
  
  – Provide tool for schools to compare against peers
Advisory Panel

Arthur Atkinson, Univ. of San Diego
Corey Berman, Univ of Vermont
Larry Cook, Univ of South Carolina
Joshua Cook, Mass DEP
Julien Dautremont-Smith, AASHE
Jessica Davis, IUPUI
Rob Didriksen, MO DNR
Jessica Eimer Brown, Aquinas College
Emily Fabel, RecyclingWorks
Kelsey Gaude, Arizona State Univ.
Adah Gorton, SC DHEC

Jen Jones, Christopher Newport Univ.
Debra Kutska, Oakton Comm. College
Tyler Orton, American University
Amity Lumper, Cascadia Consulting
Stefan Moedritzer, Cascadia Consulting
John Pepi, Umass Amherst
BJ Tipton, UNC Chapel Hill
Lydia Vandenbergh, Penn State Univ.
Dave VanDeventer, Clemson University
Christine von Kolnitz, Medical Univ. of SC
How Survey Was Conducted

• 29 question: 22 for all respondents + 7 optional
• Conducted December 2017/ winter 2018
• Using online Survey Monkey form
• Distributed: CURC webinar lists; state DEP’s;
  AASHE newsletter announcements; Recyc-l listserv
Profile of Survey Responses

• 340 total C’s & U’s responses
• Screened out duplicate, unreliable, international responses
• Actual analysis based on 312 responses
• Caveats:
  - Distribution lists biased to eco-engaged schools
  - Self-selection of those willing to complete survey
  - Have not attempted to balance proportionate to overall US & Canada institutional representation
Profile of Survey Responses

Geographic Distribution

- Canada: 5%
- Midwest: 23%
- Northeast: 23%
- South: 30%
- West: 19%
Profile of Survey Responses

Type of Institution

4 Year: 83%

2 Year: 17%
Profile of Survey Responses

Private vs Public

Private: 35%
Public: 65%
Profile of Survey Responses: 4 Year Schools

Size

- Very Large: 20%
- Large: 28%
- Medium: 25%
- Small / very small: 27%
Profile of Survey Responses:
4 Year Schools

Residential vs Commuter

- Primarily Residential: 39%
- Primarily Non-Residential: 23%
- Highly Residential: 38%
Profile of Survey Responses: 2 Year Schools

Size

- Large: 21%
- Medium: 15%
- Small: 13%
- Very Large: 51%
Next Steps

Fall 2018
• Further analyze & refine results
• Spreadsheet results for comparable schools available on request to participating schools.

Winter 2019
• Publish report
What materials does your campus recycle?

- **Paper**: 99%
- **Cardboard**: 98%
- **Metal Cans**: 95%
- **Plastic Containers #1 & 2**: 88%
- **Plastic Containers #3 - 7**: 81%
- **Glass Bottles**: 81%
- **Surplus Property**: 72%
- **Yard Waste**: 72%
- **Construction / Demo Waste**: 62%
- **Electronics**: 86%
- **Food Waste**: 70%
How many bins are recyclables sorted into?

**Full Survey**
- Single stream: 50%
- Two streams: 15%
- Three or more separate streams: 16%
- Other: 1%

**High Performers**
- Single stream: 44%
- Two streams: 18%
- Three or more separate streams: 20%
- Other: 5%

- Single stream - some areas / 2 or more streams other areas: 18%
- Single stream - some areas / 2 or more streams other areas: 13%
Recycling is convenient?

- Strongly Agree: 47%
- Agree: 38%
- Mildly Disagree: 12%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
Does your campus have recycling bin campus standards?

**Full Survey**

- **Officially-sanctioned standard, all new bins**: 36%
- **Informal standard, encouraged but not required for new bins**: 24%
- **No standard**: 7%
- **Hope to implement standard in foreseeable future**: 12%
- **In process of developing officially-sanctioned standards**: 18%
- **Other**: 3%
- **No standard**: 7%

- **No standard**: 7%
- **Other**: 3%

- **No standard**: 7%
- **Other**: 3%
Does your campus have recycling bin campus standards?

High Performers

- Officially-sanctioned standard, all new bins: 65%
- No standard: 14%
- Other: 15%
- No standard: 14%
Food scrap collection areas

- Collect food scraps: Dining - Back of House (68%)
- Collect food scraps: Dining - Front of House (48%)
- Collect food scraps: Academic (20%)
- Collect food scraps: Housing (22%)
- Collect food scraps: Special events (41%)
- Collect food scraps: "To-go" locations (24%)
- Donate unserved food to shelters, etc. (45%)
- Reduce waste: Dining Front of House (57%)
- Reduce waste: Dining - Back of the House (52%)
- Minimal or no effort (14%)
- Other (16%)
Campus Official Diversion Rate?

- Yes: 55%
- No: 45%
What is your diversion rate?

- Under 20% diversion: 6%
- 20% to 49% diversion: 31%
- 50% to 69% diversion: 13%
- 70% or higher diversion: 50%
Waste sorts completed in the last 2 years?

- Formal Study - Entire Campus: 10%
- Formal Study - Select Areas of Campus: 30%
- Academic Class Projects: 31%
- Isolated, Less-Formal Surveys: 52%
- None - N/A: 11%
Strongly agree to educating on recycling and waste behavior?

**Full Survey**
- Strongly Agree: 23%
- Agree: 53%
- Mildly Disagree: 18%
- Strongly Disagree: 6%

**High Performers**
- Strongly Agree: 33%
- Agree: 47%
- Mildly Disagree: 16%
- Strongly Disagree: 4%
What office takes the lead on advancing your recycling/waste program?

- **Facilities #**: 59%
- **Sustainability office**: 31%
- **Student group / govt.**: 3%
- **No office specifically focused on expanding efforts**: 4%
- **Recycling (outside of Facilities)**: 2%
- **Dept of Administration / General Svcs**: 1%
Does the campus have formal zero waste/diversion goals?

- In process of setting goal to be endorsed by administration: 13%
- Adopted by administration, with active implementation plan: 15%
- Adopted by administration, but no formal plan to achieve: 9%
- Unofficial goal set by recycling/sustainability office: 26%
- No specific goal: 37%
Does the campus have formal zero waste/diversion goals?

- **Unofficial goal set by recycling/sustainability office**: 8%
- **No specific goal**: 47%
- **In process of setting goal to be endorsed by administration**: 12%
- **Adopted by administration, with active implementation plan**: 17%
- **Adopted by administration, but no formal plan to achieve**: 16%

**High Performers**
B: What is the goal?

- 80%+ Diversion: 46%
- 30% to 49% Diversion: 13%
- 50% to 79% Diversion: 30%
- Other: 11%
C: By what year?

- By 2020: 55%
- By 2025: 30%
- By 2030: 10%
- Distant Year: 5%
Rank the Current Priorities

- Reduce contamination
- Expand collection to new locations
- Increase reuse efforts
- Increase recycling participation
- Convert collection system
- Collect new material streams
- Advanced zero waste efforts
- Upstream waste prevention/SMM
- Food waste recovery / reduction
- Other

Other: 0%
Food waste recovery / reduction: 5%
Upstream waste prevention/SMM: 5%
Advanced zero waste efforts: 10%
Collect new material streams: 5%
Convert collection system: 5%
Increase recycling participation: 40%
Increase reuse efforts: 5%
Expand collection to new locations: 5%
Reduce contamination: 20%
2\textsuperscript{nd} Highest Priority

- Food waste recovery / reduction
- Upstream waste prevention/SMM
- Advanced zero waste efforts
- Increase reuse efforts
- Expand collection to new locations
- Increase recycling participation
- Collect new material streams
- Convert collection system
- Reduce contamination
Current Barriers

- TOO MUCH CONTAMINATION: 5%
- UNCOOPERATIVE CONTRACTORS: 2%
- LACK OF STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT: 5%
- PEOPLE NOT RECYCLING: 5%
- MARKETS RESTRICTING MATERIALS ACCEPTED: 9%
- GETTING ACCURATE DATA: 3%
- INSUFFICIENT FUNDING: 16%
- LACK OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS: 27%
- LOWER PRIORITY TO OTHER SUSTAINABILITY: 26%
2nd Barrier

- TOO MUCH CONTAMINATION: 7%
- UNCOOPERATIVE CONTRACTORS: 7%
- LACK OF STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT: 5%
- PEOPLE NOT RECYCLING: 8%
- MARKETS RESTRICTING MATERIALS ACCEPTED: 18%
- GETTING ACCURATE DATA: 4%
- INSUFFICIENT FUNDING: 13%
- LACK OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS: 26%
- LOWER PRIORITY TO OTHER SUSTAINABILITY...: 12%
Conclusions

• We know markets/contamination is an issue, but not seeing it as much of a high priority as expected in this survey
• Move to single stream
• Campus standards
• Diversion goals
• Prioritizing education and outreach