



# Implementing Standardized Collection Bins

# University of Michigan

-Ann Arbor, MI

-46,000 students

-Public research institution



# 1

PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN U.S.

---

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (2016)



**\$1.48B**

IN RESEARCH EXPENDITURES (2017)



# Go From This...

# To This!



# Background

- 2015: Committees convened to identify projects to further UM along towards 2025 sustainability goals.
- 2016: Committee convened to establish bin standards:

- Bins
- Colors
- Signs
- Nomenclature
- Locations



# The Process

- Relied on other schools and best practices research for decisions on standards
- Consensus among students, faculty and staff
- State fire marshal approval
- Small pilot
- Creating rollout team
- Engaging facility managers
- Roll out new bins!

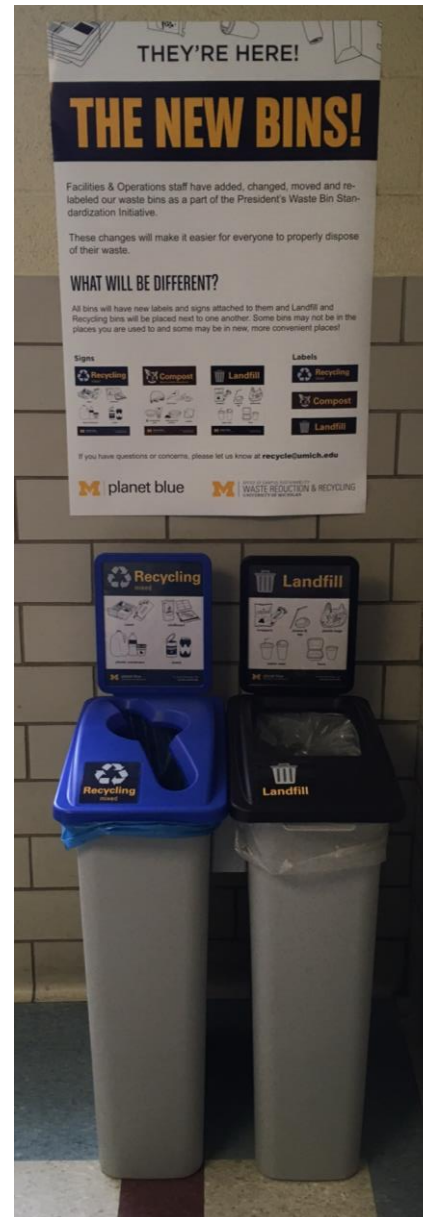


# Challenges

- Departmental reorganization after standards set but before roll outs began
- Differing fire marshal/code enforcement opinions
- Balancing upper administrative pressure to “just get the bins out” with need for stakeholder engagement
- Retrofitting existing bins and built-ins
- Difference between spaces and how they are used (e.g. classrooms, breakrooms, athletic facilities, labs, exam rooms, child care, etc.)

# Current Status

- 340 buildings rolled out
- 5,200 new bins placed
- 1,000 bins/cabinets retrofitted
- 40 buildings left to roll out
- Anticipated completion: June 2019
- Phase II rollouts occurring as well



# Current Results

- **Sustainability culture:** Difficult to measure, achieving goal of project
- **Waste Reduction:** Early results show an overall 2.2% increase in diversion. More accurate, reliable data 1 year+ from rollout
- **Contamination:** Contamination rate in new recycling bins down to 7.74% (from 22.13%).





# Want to learn more? Contact me!

- Tracy Artley
- [artleyt@umich.edu](mailto:artleyt@umich.edu)
- 734-764-1600
- [Recycle.umich.edu](http://Recycle.umich.edu)

