



Weber State University: Adapting & Building Support Around Sustainable Waste Management

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Weber State University (WSU)



- **Location:** Ogden, Utah
- **Student Body:** 26,000 students
 - 56% of non-traditional students
 - 96% of students are commuters
- **Affordability**
 - Most affordable university in Utah

Energy & Sustainability Office at WSU



**WEBER STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**Energy & Sustainability
Office**

Timeline:

- **2007:** ACUPCC signatory
- **2009:** Energy Office
- **2010:** Energy & Sustainability Office (ESO) was created

Organization of ESO:

- Located within Facilities Management
- Energy & sustainability sections are separated
- **2** full time sustainability staff
 - **1** Americorps volunteer
 - **3** student interns

Local Recycling Program



ENVIRONMENT

Global shifts in recycling market creating mess for Northern Utah

By LEIA LARSEN, Standard-Examiner Staff Jan 28, 2018

This month, China officially slapped the U.S. with a ban on some recyclable materials and tougher standards for accepting others. The impacts ...



ENVIRONMENT

Recycling program in North Ogden could get thrown out by City Council

By LEIA LARSEN, Standard-Examiner Apr 13, 2018

North Ogden officials are in the early stages of deciding whether to toss the city's curbside recycling program.



ENVIRONMENT

North Ogden officials support trash fee hike to save recycling program

By TIM VANDENACK, Standard-Examiner May 17, 2018

NORTH OGDEN — North Ogden officials are on board with the proposed 49-cent hike in monthly trash-collection fees to salvage the city's recycli...



POLITICS

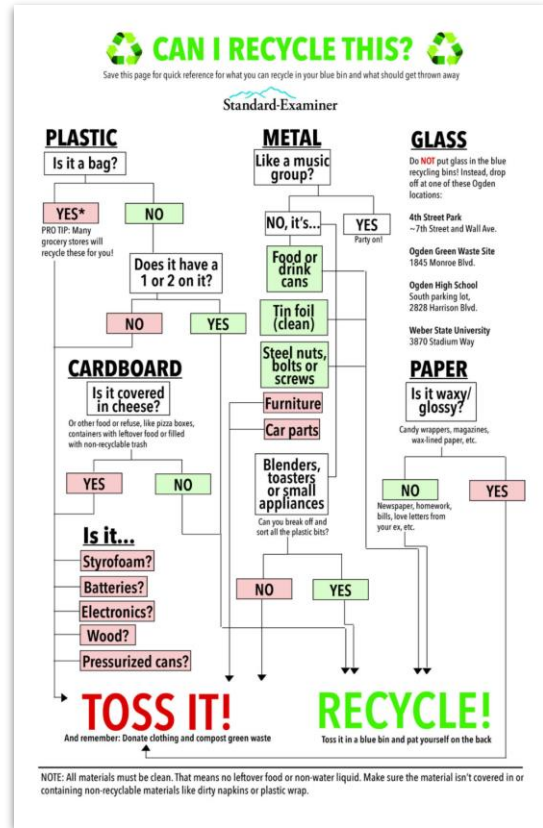
Roy weighs recycling program, elimination possible if it gets too costly

By TIM VANDENACK, Standard-Examiner Jul 28, 2018

ROY — Forces impacting the recycling market worldwide are putting the future of the city of Roy's recycling program in doubt.

- Single Stream Recycling
 - Separate glass recycling
- Sorted at local MRF - Recycled Earth
- Changes in the global market:
 - Increased costs
 - Decreased services
 - High rates of contamination
- Local government have considered removing recycling all together

Decreased Service & Increased Costs



- Reduction in items that are accepted
 - No glossy paper
 - Only plastics # 1 & 2
- Increased processing costs
 - Local recycler has to be diligent of sorting items
 - 50% contamination rate

Weber State's Reaction



- Massive reduction in items that could be recycled
- Used to educate “When in doubt recycle it”
- Our office went through the 5 stages of grief




Denial



Anger



Bargaining

A woman with a towel wrapped around her head like a turban is sitting in a wooden bathtub. She is looking off to the side with a contemplative or somber expression. The room has rustic, textured walls. In the background, a small table holds several lit candles, providing a warm, dim light. The overall mood is quiet and introspective.

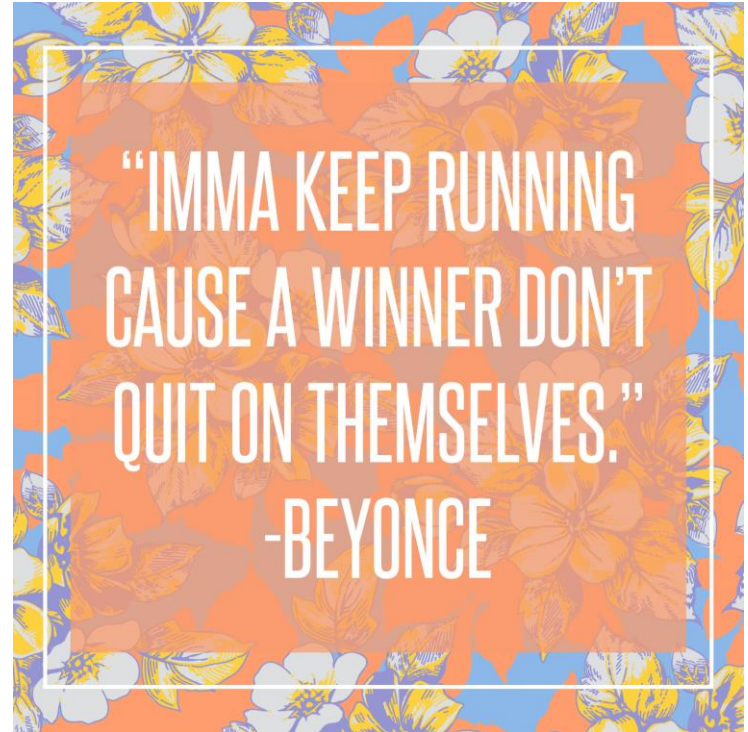
Depression

A black and white photograph capturing a moment of joy and acceptance. Three individuals are standing in a shower, their bodies drenched in water. The person in the center, a woman with long blonde hair, has her arms outstretched and her head tilted back, looking up at the cascading water. She is wearing a dark, patterned one-piece swimsuit with a large circular design on the chest. To her left and right are two men, their backs to the camera. They are wearing dark, patterned swim trunks with white harness-like straps. The water is spraying all around them, creating a misty, ethereal atmosphere. Two bright, circular light sources are visible in the background, one on each side of the central figure. The word "Acceptance" is written in a white, serif font across the middle of the image, positioned over the central woman's torso.

Acceptance

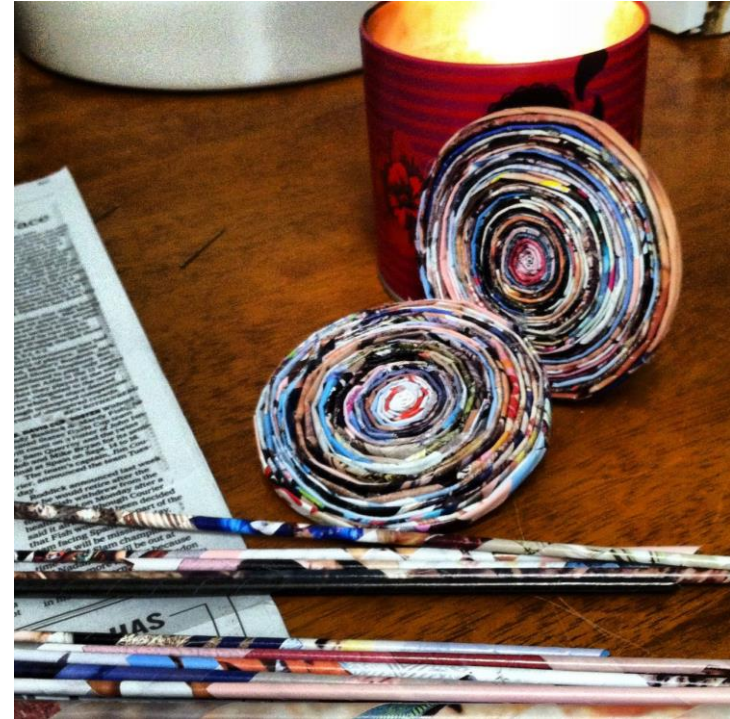
Acceptance aka Adaptation

- Reduce contamination and waste reduction through education
 - Hands on
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- Set zero-waste goals



Hands On Education

- Training Sessions:
 - Upcycling Activities
- Working with the custodial crew
- Tabling & playing educational games with students



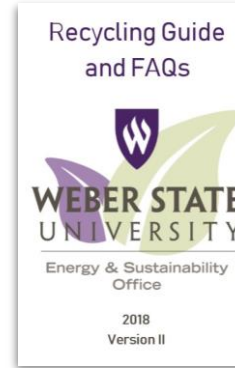
Direct Education

- Training Sessions: Let's Talk Trash
- **Goal:** Empowerment



Indirect Education

- Policy statement in syllabus
- Recycling video
- New recycling signs
- Recycling guides



Sustainability Office Sketch

Waste Reduction

- Created a Zero-Waste Advisory Committee
- Zero-waste plan for the university



How to Create Change from the Bottom Up

“The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.” - Herbert Spencer

- Green Department Certification Program



Success Story: Tiny Trash

- Office could opt into having a tiny trash cans
- Now it is a campus standard in new buildings
- Promotes waste reduction & eliminates plastic liners



Questions

“An individual action,
multiplied by millions,
creates global change”

