

Mt. Trashmore



Recycling bins on campus and throughout the community are becoming commonplace, but the question remains, “Do we really know what goes where?” The signs and labels on bins are informative, but not exhaustive, and the common limiting factor to getting people to change their behavior around recycling is education. [Mt. Trashmore](#) is an on-campus exposition that serves the purpose of making a **big stink** about recycling behaviors and educating the community on what can, and should, be recycled.

To get started, follow these steps:

- 1 Choose a location** – Select a central place on campus where your exposition will be visible (*and smellable*) to other students, faculty and university staff.
- 2 Check-in with facilities** – You’ll want to work with campus facilities to reserve space and to make sure you can use the space for an event of this nature.
- 3 Pick a date/time frame** – Choose a day when most students and faculty are on campus. Generally Mon-Thurs are the busiest. Also, decide on the time frame for your event. If possible, collect the trash the night before to get a complete/24-hour picture of the disposal practices on campus. Then, plan your sorting event for a few high traffic hours the following day.
- 4 Recruit volunteers** – Your pile of trash and recycling will do a lot of the talking for you day of, but be sure to recruit volunteers by reaching out to friends, classmates, like-minded groups and even professors to participate. Create a schedule of shifts for collecting and sorting the recycling bins, and get people to sign up for half or full hour-long blocks between and after classes.
- 5 Prepare your materials** – You’ll want a tarp to cover the ground, gloves for all volunteers, a bathroom scale if you plan to weigh the trash (this is helpful to quantify the lbs of trash diverted by the event), and a notebook to record your results. Also, make sure you and your volunteers know what materials can and cannot be recycled. Details [here](#).
- 6 Keep track of your results** – As you sort the contents of each bin, compile your results to find trends in recycling behavior. Track how many lbs. of each type of material (computer paper, mixed paper, corrugated, newspaper, magazines, glass containers, aluminum cans, scrap metals, plastics, batteries, styrofoam, etc.) are being thrown away (**landfill stream**) or recycled (**diversion stream**).
- 7 Engage with passersby** – People will undoubtedly be interested in what you’re doing. Take time to talk to them about the why you’re doing this event, share [recycling tips](#), and invite them to get involved!
- 8 Share your findings** – Contact your school’s newspaper to both get your event on their calendar and to invite a reporter to come and cover the Mt. Trashmore event.



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