



*People and Nature: Our Future is in the Balance*

## **National Wildlife Federation**

11100 Wildlife Center Drive • Reston, VA 20190 • <http://www.nwf.org/>

### **Ball State University Muncie, Indiana Spring 2003, Waste Management**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Campus Profile**

Ball State University, situated on 940 acres in Muncie, Indiana, serves approximately 19,000 students (45 percent male, 55 percent female). Seven academic colleges offer 120 undergraduate programs, 80 masters' programs and 20 doctoral programs in 46 departments and schools. Some 750 faculty, 550 professional staff and 1,500 support personnel comprise the employee base.

### **Contacts**

Mike Planton

Superintendent of Grounds

Facilities Planning and Management

Phone: 765-285-5092

Fax: 765-285-8758

E-mail: [mplanton@bsu.edu](mailto:mplanton@bsu.edu)

## **GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Goals**

Our goals was to continue to compost wood products from the waste stream (specifically, wood pallets and surplus and unused furnishing items) as part of the university's campus-wide composting program, and to place the compost onto planting beds throughout the campus.

### **Accomplishments**

This recycling program offers the university an opportunity for removing material from its waste stream that can be used on-campus as a soil amendment and beautification component of the campus planting and grounds maintenance. The university continues to capture a substantial percentage of its solid waste stream in this manner.

### **Challenges and Responses**

The critical issue in managing this program is to have sufficient storage space to accumulate the solid waste prior to shredding and preparation as a compost material. The machine used for the shredding is rented on a periodic basis and is most cost effective when a large block of material is ready for composting.



**Construction/Material Salvage before  
Composting**

## ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

### Leaders and Supporters

Although the bulk of this activity is undertaken and managed through the Facilities Management arm of the institution, information about this program is routinely shared at the monthly meetings of the Ball State University Council on the Environment. This activity supports the adoption of the Talloires Declaration, implementation of the Green-2 Committee recommendations and follow-through on the stated university position on sustainability, which can be found at: [www.bsu.edu/sustainability](http://www.bsu.edu/sustainability).

### Funding

Cost of the program is absorbed within the operating budget of the Facilities Management offices.

### National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program

Reference to Campus Ecology publications such as *Ecodemia* and *State of the Campus Environment*, as well as the reports about other campus recycling efforts in the *Campus Environmental Yearbook*, has been helpful in garnering support.

## CLOSING COMMENT

One challenge that remains is to make such efforts transparent to the full university community. Certainly, sharing this through the *Campus Environmental Yearbook* provides one vehicle for doing that. We anticipate additional publication and information dissemination on campus through the Council on the Environment, the "Green Space" articles in *Campus Update* and periodic stories in *Campus Daily News*. It is our belief that with increased transparency and broader sharing of this achievement, members of the university community will feel reinforced in their actions to secure a more sustainable campus.



Composting of Wood Pallets, Yard Waste and Material Salvage



Composting Used on University Grounds