



University of Wyoming Laramie, Wyoming Waste Reduction

SCHOOL

The University of Wyoming is a public, four-year school with an enrollment of 13,000, located in Laramie, Wyoming.

ABSTRACT

The University of Wyoming (UW) has been recycling textbooks, both soft and hard cover, for more than 10 years. UW donates about 10,000 pounds of books to Better World Books each year for reuse, the books that are not donated are recycled with other paper recycling; an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 pounds of books are recycled each year (2 to 3 times the amount donated). More than half of the books collected are hard cover books (60% hard cover and 40% soft cover).

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Accomplishments and Outcomes

Bins are put out during book buyback times at the book buyback area of the bookstore. UW also collects books year round from students, faculty and staff in the regular recycling bins.

As mentioned, UW works with Better World Books (BWB) (www.betterworldbooks.com) to donate books that are in good shape and valuable. BWB provides a scanner to plug into a computer and log on to their website; BWB also provide boxes to ship books. UW scans the ISBN numbers to see if they are wanted for donation, if so shipment is arranged and paid for by BWB (each shipment is a pallet or two-about 90 boxes). The books that are not donated (through BWB) are processed for recycling - a paper cutting machine is used to remove the spines and covers and the paper is recycled. The paper cutting machine is a Horizon PC-45 which has a 22" paper knife that works hydraulically/electrically. The campus uses a mix of recycling staff and volunteers, both students and community members in this effort. The paper is sold to ARK Regional Services; the campus paper is combined with ARK's other customer's similar commodities and sold by the semi load to mills.

Challenges and Responses

The biggest challenge in this effort is that more books are collected than can be handled by the existing staff and volunteers so advertising this opportunity has not been a priority. There are plans to create a website featuring this effort; however that has been on a slow timeline.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

The recycling department (4 full time employees and 11 part time students) coordinates this effort, including collecting and processing the books, with assistance from the bookstore, one campus club, and some individual staff and faculty members.

Funding and Resources

Financing for book recycling comes from 3 sources; sale of commodities, student fees, and Pepsi contract with UW. There is no profit but between the three funding sources, the campus breaks even. Student employees get paid \$7.50/hour, spending 3 or 4 hours a week on books, specifically. Full time staff collect the books with other recycling, so the books don't really add to the time spent in collection.

Education and Community Outreach

UW doesn't do much in the way of promotions other than placing bins in good locations. There are a few other organizations on campus that also collect books as a fund raiser and they promote their efforts separately. On occasion this effort has been featured in the campus paper.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

The University of Wyoming (UW) is positioning itself to become more sustainable in a logical and deliberate way. Over the last five years, significant advances have been made. President Buchanan created the Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC) in 2005 "to serve in an advisory capacity to all campus departments, colleges and other entities in an effort to advance environmental and economic sustainability at the University of Wyoming." In 2007, President Buchanan signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), committing UW to become carbon neutral by 2050. In 2009, UW submitted its Climate Action Plan (CAP), UW's guiding document to reducing carbon emissions and becoming more sustainable.

Campus sustainability website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/sustainability/index.html>