

RECYCLING UPDATE

HELP REDUCE RECYCLING CONTAMINATION ON CAMPUS

There have been reported incidents of contamination across campus in the recycling program (single stream and cardboard specifically) over the few weeks. The contamination ranged from trash bags found in the cardboard dumpsters to food and drink contaminants in single-stream recycling. These issues cost the University revenue loss in form of recycling rebates as compensation for having a cleaner stream of recyclables.

For more information about what materials are acceptable in the single-stream recycling program, [visit](#) the Recycling Services page to download the signage. The green dumpsters in most academic and administrative buildings are for cardboard collection. Kindly ensure all contaminants (e.g., packing peanuts, Styrofoam, shrink wrap, waxed boxes- meat boxes, boxes with food residue, pizza boxes, chipboard/wetboard, and other non-corrugated paper products) are removed and ensure cardboard boxes are broken down prior to placing in the green dumpsters.

You can find out more about locations and collection schedules for cardboard [here](#).

Let us work together to support Iowa State's waste minimization and diversion initiatives by reducing contamination.



UPDATE: 2022 "CAMPUS RACE TO ZERO WASTE COMPETITION"

The competition is in its fourth week and the results of week three can be found [here](#). Iowa State University at the end of week three under the "per capita" category is ranked 57th out of the 88 colleges and universities participating in this category with an average recycling rate of 2.1 pounds/person.

Iowa State University this year is participating in three categories:

- Per Capita Recycling- focuses on increasing our recycling rate on campus by tracking and reporting recyclables collected on campus.
- Electronics Waste- tracks the amount of computers, printers, consumer electronics, and other scrap or refurbishable eligible materials collected across campus.
- Race to Zero Waste- One Building Challenge- focuses on comprehensive effort to reduce, reuse and recycle the greatest amount of waste from a single designated building.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

National Wildlife Federation Graduate Student Fellows help to inform and strengthen NWF Education and Engagement programs through dedicated research projects. Monetary fellowship grants are awarded to graduate students working with NWF staff on research that helps to expand the content and development of a variety of efforts across NWF's Education and Engagement programs. Fellows join a national network of current and alumni fellows, many of whom have gone on to lead new businesses, agencies, and programs for sustainability all across the U.S. NWF is currently accepting applications for the six graduate student Fellowship Positions. Learn [more](#) and share this opportunity with your network.

FAREWELL MESSAGE TO CAMPUS

It is sad to say that this will be my last newsletter correspondence to you as the Recycling Program Coordinator for Iowa State as I will be leaving to pursue a new adventure on the east coast and to be closer to family.

I want to specially express my gratitude to the entire campus for supporting me in building systems that support our recycling program as the first full-time recycling program coordinator for the University. I'm proud of what we have all achieved together, and without your amazing support (faculty, staff, students, and community partners), we will not be where we are right now and I hope you all will continue to support the next recycling coordinator that comes after me in advancing sustainable materials management initiatives, support the waste minimization and diversion plan and sustainability in general at Iowa State.

I will miss you all but make me proud by continuing to support waste reduction at Iowa State and "don't buy what you don't need"

All the best!

Ayo