

January 16, 1991

DTF'ers,

Here's some raw data regarding our waste and recycle streams for you to chew on before we set down to examine how to reduce our waste stream through more effective procurement practices and a more comprehensive recycling program. Also included are trends that I see developing in the markets for recovered materials.

The information below and in the accompanying sheet result from the dumpster inventory completed last February, which involved a content analysis of four of the fifty two dumpsters located on the Evergreen campus. Their contents were separated into categories and then weighed. The percentages resulting were used with a yearly total generated by multiplying the known weight of a 16 cubic yard truckload of goodies with the known yearly landfill volume to give a yearly weight. Following are the categories of separation, the material's market value, if any, the known weights, the projected yearly weights and the projected yearly revenues, if any, as induced from a four dumpster sample.

- cardboard, 51# collected, 55,029# projected
- paper cups/plates, 54# collected, 58,276# projected
- compostable food, 144# collected, 155,427# projected
- glass, 37# collected, 39,958# projected
- mixed paper, 130# collected, 140,356# projected
- plastic, 63# collected, 68,014# projected
- trash, 187# collected, 201,878# projected
- tin, 10# collected, 10,820# projected
- aluminum, 26 cents/lb., 6# collected, 6492# projected, market value = \$1687.92
- newspaper, 33# collected, 35,600# projected
- styrofoam, 1# collected, 1,082# projected

Last year the school's tipping fee at the landfill was \$6800.00; this year the school's costs will be higher because the tipping fee has been raised by 40%. The recyclable component of last years waste stream was 37% by weight, or 280,000 pounds worth. The compostable fraction increases this recoverable amount to 57%.

TRENDS The price paid to TESC for all recyclable materials has dropped in the last 12 months. The vendor who picks up our cardboard, cans and glass pays us for the aluminum only (the school gets 50% of the spot price at the time the vendor sells it), and the price of paper has fallen as well. Paper prices across the board have dropped; computer paper is down from \$150.00/ton to \$80.00/ton, and the price paid for high grade ledger paper has fallen as well. We're paid nothing for newspaper, magazines and phone books and, beginning a few months ago, have been charged \$25.00/ton to have our mixed paper taken away.

This is worrisome, because with the increased volume of paper being collected on the Evergreen campus, much less sorting

is being done on the premises. Weights have gone from a ratio of 1 to 5 to 5 (white ledger to colored ledger to mixed waste) to 1 to 14 to 24. The ledger and computer paper barely paid the cost of collection the last time we were paid and, volumewise, the latest shipment (which we haven't been billed for) continues this trend, with the 18 boxes of mixed waste paper generated surpassing the total of all other grades combined, which includes only 3 boxes of ledger paper.

February 11, 1991

What follows are the results of the paper sort carried out last Thursday on the Evergreen campus. The sort was undertaken to judge the effectiveness of the current paper sorting efforts on campus by examining the types and amounts of paper that are ending up in the paper boxes. Two boxes were sorted, one of mixed waste paper and one of colored ledger paper.

One 663# box of mixed waste paper was inventoried, and its contents separated into the following categories: white ledger, mixed waste, computer paper, colored ledger, newspaper, and trash. Here are the results, in pounds.

white ledger	=	308
mixed waste	=	209
computer	=	40
colored ledger	=	73
newsprint	=	31
trash	=	2

One 701# box of colored ledger was sorted to get an idea of the amount of higher grade white ledger paper ending up in these colored ledger paper boxes. The results follow, again in pounds.

white ledger	=	415
colored ledger	=	281
computer	=	5

These results would suggest that more sorting would increase the value of our paper recycling stream, as would simplifying our waste stream by reducing the types of paper used on campus.

D.T.F.
Food Service Recycling Review

I. What's being done presently

- all tin cans recycled
- all cardboard recycled
- clear glass is recycled
- mixed paper is sorted, recycled
- china (broken) is sorted but not picked up
- 40% of plastic tableware is sorted and saved, but not recycled or reused yet
- #2 plastic (milk jug) is sorted but not recycled or picked up
- plastic pickle jugs, cottage cheese buckets and the like are cleaned and saved, but not recycled
- plastic 6-pack rings are saved for hopefully future recycling; they are not thrown out
- used fryer oil is saved and recycled

II. What we need to work on

- food waste is trashed, or run through disposal (water waste). Accurate estimates unavailable, but daily amount is quite large.
- paper cups, plates, bowls, lids and plastic tableware are still used heavily. China, glass and stainless steel are all available and logistically feasible, but guests need good incentives and reasons to switch. Convenience and take-out food are stumbling blocks. We now offer limited incentives (water is free in glass, costs in paper; we charge for empty cups). We offer reusable, refillable cups at the Deli and Greenery.
 - paper waste is still too high; we need to incorporate recycling into initial training and give clear reasons for complying.
- health dept.- oddly enough, many health regulations conflict with recycling practices. Some plastic cannot be reused, food waste must be stored properly, temperature holding requirements often create incredible power and resource waste. I will meet with Thurston Co. health inspector on Wed. 1/30 to get some information on composting, plasticware, can storage, etc.
- purchasing/packaging = buying in bulk whenever possible; buying in refillable containers when possible; buying recyclable packaging when possible.