

EXPANDED RECYCLING MANUAL

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A big thank-you to all who contributed to the Expanded Recycling manual! We would not have been able to research and compile this document without the time and contributions of the following individuals and groups:

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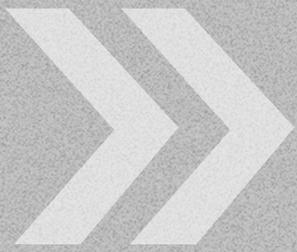
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METHODS OF COLLECTION

Like its name suggests, expanded recycling covers MANY different types of materials. The chapters to follow cover some of the major material categories, their specific components, and where items in these categories should go. For any type of expanded recycling material, aggregation is your goal. The more of a material that you can have hauled off at once from a central location, the more cost efficient it is for your campus to recycle it. There are **two main methods** to collect and aggregate any type of hard-to-recycle material on your campus:

Drop-off Centers: A passive, ongoing form of collection in which students and staff can participate at their own accord.

Talk to your facilities department to figure out strategic locations to place bins for expanded recycling materials. This could be near existing recycling bins and/or in central locations such as the library, student centers, and the mailroom.

Ensure drop off locations are in a **convenient location**, and are **well advertised and sign-posted**.

Materials will have to be **transported** from drop-off bins to a recycling facility. Your campus might have another **central location** that materials from drop-off bins are taken to before this transport. Making these rounds may be under the jurisdiction of your Facilities Management department, but could potentially involve student volunteers, interns or work-study employees.

E-waste Recycler Red Flags

1. **“We are EPA certified.”** There is no such thing as EPA certification of recyclers.
2. **“We have a no landfill policy.”** While we don't want e-waste going to the landfill, be sure it isn't being sent to an incinerator either! Also, this doesn't really provide any information on their exportation practices.
3. **“We follow all applicable state and federal laws.”** There are certifications that prohibit companies from exporting, like e-Stewards, but there is no national or state legislation around exportation.
4. **“We use a fully permitted facility.”** Again, no such permits exist!
5. **“We don't export any equipment.”** The company itself might not export equipment, but they might send it to a domestic broker who DOES. Ask the company about how closely they track the chain of custody of their equipment and materials.
6. **“We don't export any e-waste.”** The majority of this industry will not refer to the materials that they intercept “waste”, but rather, as "scrap". So, do they export any scrap materials, or non-working, and possibly hazardous, electronics?
7. **“We provide a certificate of destruction/recycling.”** While a certificate can be meaningful, find out who has oversight for this type or documentation. Your school should never accept these as the only proof of ethical operations.
8. **“We process everything in the U.S. and only export commodities for recycling.”** A commodity can be anything that someone else will buy. So, if someone is willing to buy non-working, possibly hazardous "scrap", the company will sell it!
9. **“We are ISO 14001 Certified.”** ISO 14001 is a standard for *how* a company sets up and runs its environmental management system, but does not designate what policies will be taken towards exportation.

Source: Endnote 22

Record Keeping & Tracking

Keeping track of the progress of your expanded recycling efforts is valuable for communicating your impact and maintaining long term programs. This can be done with quantitative recycling rates as well as qualitative campus surveys. Attentive data collection should:

- Provide on-campus funders or alumni with proof of the program's value.
- Pinpoint any inefficiencies in your program that need to be addressed for operations to run smoothly .
- Assess whether the disposal needs of the campus and surrounding community are being met through the program.

TRACKING CAMPUS WIDE QUANTITATIVE DATA

One of the ways that campuses will track their waste reduction efforts is through their diversion rate, or the amount of waste materials leaving a campus that is not going to the landfill or incinerator. Increasingly, campuses are setting diversion rate goals to communicate their commitment to waste reduction. For example, the University of California Office of the President has mandated that all ten UC campuses achieve Zero Waste (defined as 95% of waste materials leaving campus are diverted from landfills and incinerators) by the year 2020.²⁶

The Issue with Diversion Rates

A higher diversion rate doesn't always mean less waste. For example, if a campus bans bottled water, then they have less material that has the potential to be recycled (or potentially landfilled). While this abides by the waste hierarchy of refuse and reduce before reuse and recycle, the recycling rate of campus is decreased. So while there is less waste leaving campus (including recyclable material), the diversion appears lower with the elimination of plastic bottles from campus.