2021 Campus Race to Zero Waste Case Study Competition

Dallas College Races to Zero Waste
In Arts, Construction and Public Health
At Home and On Campus in a Global Pandemic

1. **Contact info (name, department, school, email, phone)**
   
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   Dallas College  
   bmorton@daccd.edu  
   www.dallascollege.edu/sustainability

2. **Focus of Case study**
   

3. **Detailed description of campaign or effort:**
   
   Dallas College has a proud RecycleMania Legacy led by North Lake and Richland campuses and all campuses participating since 2008. In 2021, the global pandemic created challenges, but also created opportunities to rethink how to engage students and employees.


   Dallas College created a new online Zero Waste Education Hub (DCR2ZWH). The DCR2ZWH received over 1,700 visits during February and March and it will continue to be a resource on the internal log-in portal for students and employees. The DCR2ZWH provides resources in six areas: Circular Economy, Backyard Composting, Fast Fashion, Plastic Pollution Crisis, Recycling and Vermicomposting.

   North Lake Campus Fine Arts Professor Brett Dyer tasked his students to create 2-dimensional recycled texture art collages that portray famous masterpieces made from recycled, reused, and repurposed materials. This spring 2021, the students made their works of recycled art entirely at home.

   Richland Campus Drama Program reflects a continued commitment to teaching and modeling safe and sustainable industry practices in the interest of better serving students and proactive conservation of our
planet for future generations. The Richland theater faculty places particular emphasis on the Four R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink.

The new Dallas College Construction Sciences Building was under construction during the months of February and March and diverted a total of 413.39 tons of waste from the local landfill at a diversion rate of 73.52%.

College students, employees and company CEO and founder of the Dot Cup partnered to host two public health events that were inclusive, honest, and stigma-free conversations about the impact of menstruation from an environmental, physical, and global perspective. The events had 29 participants and each will receive a complimentary Dot Cup.

4. **Planning steps & timeline to implement:**

- October 2020 - Dallas College Sustainability Team met in to discuss COVID impacts on the competition expecting campuses might re-open in Spring 2021
- November 2020 – Dallas College and many others elected to close campuses until further notice
- December 2020 - Dallas College Assistant Director of Sustainability Education Lori Delacruz Lewis led development of the Race to Zero Waste Hub to support online and Dallas College Sustainability Interns Oriana Silva and Joy Wambua led efforts to engage students on social media via Instagram
- January 2021 – Dallas College Campus Race to Zero Waste Hub was created. Social media strategy was finalized. New Construction Science Building was about to start Construction & Demolition phase of the project and aligned with the timeline of the CRZZW competition.
- February/March 2021 – Social Media engagement launched on Instagram
- April/May 2021 – Team gathered data to produce this Case Study

5. **Resources and stakeholders involved**

The Dallas College Office of Sustainability Outreach and Initiatives committed staff time to supporting this competition engagement activities:

- Georgeann Moss, Executive Administrator for Sustainability Outreach & Initiatives
- Sonia Ford, Assistant Director for Sustainability
- Lori Delacruz Lewis, Assistant Director for Sustainability Education
- Brandon Morton, Assistant Director for Sustainability Operations
- Oriana Silva, Sustainability Intern
- Joy Wambua, Sustainability Intern

The Dallas College School of Creative Arts, Entertainment & Design have faculty and staff leading sustainability in their programs:

- Brett Dyer, Professor of Arts, 2D Design Recycle Art Texture Project
- Scott Osborne, Instructional Specialist, Design and Technical Theater
- Andy Long, Professor of Drama
- Jennifer Owen, Instructional Specialist, Teaching and Theater
- Justin Ashley, Instructional Specialist, Teaching and Theater

The Dallas College Sustainable Menstruation Conversation was supported by several departments, and led by the following individuals:
• Dr. Maria Boccalandro, Dean of Special Academic Programs, Dallas College
• Betsy Drach, CEO and Founder of Dot Cup
• Linda Skidmore, Nurse, Dallas College
• Kari Andrews, Executive Assistant, Dallas College
• Karen Gallegos, Student, Dallas College
• Oriana Silva, Student, Dallas College and University of North Texas
• Ferdinando Castro, Student, Dallas College
• Olivia Brookshire, Student, Texas Woman’s University
• Joy Wambua, Student, Dallas College

The companies contracted for the new Dallas College Construction Sciences Building provided data on Construction & Demolition waste diverted from the landfill.

• Barret Stillings, Project Manager, Joeris General Contractors
• Christina Parks Riggs, Sustainability Manager, Facility Performance Associates

6. Describe the Results of this campaign component

• The Dallas College Race to Zero Waste Hub received more than 1,700 visits during the months of February and March of the competition, as a result from being featured in the Dallas College Employee Newsletter and Student Newsletter.
• Dallas College engaged 240 people through Sustainable Brookhaven Instagram page.
• The fine arts texture recycled art project at North Lake had 16 students submit their projects for the Campus Race to Zero Waste Case Study. The performing arts program at Richland took place online at home, with a social distanced sustainable production that started in March.
• The Sustainable Menstruation Conversation engaged 29 people with two events.

The new Dallas College Construction Sciences Building was under construction during the months of February and March and diverted a total of 413.39 tons of waste from the local landfill at a diversion rate of 73.52% as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Total Construction & Demolition Waste diverted during February and March 2021. Data provided by Joeris General Contractors and Facility Performance Associates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>380.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drywall</td>
<td>11.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/OCC (Old Corrugated Cardboard)</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trash | 148.89  
---|---  
Wood | 14  
Total Diverted | 413.39  
Total Tonnage, Diverted and Landfill | 562.28

7. **What would you do differently in the future?**

The uncertainty that the global pandemic created left staff wondering whether or not we would return to campus for an AB schedule for safe social distancing. The transition to one college was challenges to sustain continuity of engagement across all locations with new leadership. The lessons learned to develop best practices in the future will be to have multiple competition formats and broadly communicated more in advance. One competition format for on-site for regular campus operations engaging students, faculty and staff, and another competition format for online or at-home participation engaging students, faculty and staff.

8. **What advice would you give to another college that wanted to do a similar effort?**

For 2021, the global pandemic created challenges to repeat the same format of campus-based zero waste engagement, but also created opportunities to rethink how to engage the majority of students, faculty and staff who were learning and working from home. With the transition to Dallas College, this created enhanced cross-departmental communication and leveraging experts across our organization that had not worked together on the same team before for this competition. In the past, our campuses competed against each other and while this format created great success for some campuses, other campuses were not able to achieve the same level of engagement with students and employees. One advice to colleges or universities that are part of the same organization or system would be to think outside the box and work together within your organization to compete against outsiders.
Dallas College Race to Zero Waste Hub, hosted on the College’s intranet for internal audiences.

Dallas College Race to Zero Waste

Reduce waste going to the landfill from Dallas College campuses and your homes.

Achieving Zero Waste

The concept of Zero Waste relates to the reduction of materials going to the landfill. Reduction methods apply to home, school, business and government initiatives.

1. Home
   - Buy less.
   - Recycle more.
   - Reduce waste.
   - Compost more.

2. School
   - Bring your own water bottles.
   - Identify wasteful practices on campus and petition to change them.

3. Business
   - Frequent businesses that implement zero waste operations.
   - Contact CEOs to convince them to change their operations.

4. Government
   - Contact your government representatives to convince them to adopt zero waste and circular economy policies.

Circular Economy

- A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems

Composting

- Divert yard trimmings and leaves to create mulch in your backyard.

Fast Fashion

- Fast-fashion brands may not design their clothing to last (and they don’t), but as artifacts of a...

Plastic Pollution Crisis

- Once a completely natural product, much of today’s plastic is man-made and largely dependent upon fossil...
Contact Us

DALLAS COLLEGE - SUSTAINABILITY
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Backyard Composting was the most popular resource utilized by students and employees.
The Biology of Composting

Composting involves a wide variety of organisms which are naturally present in organic matter. Bacteria perform the primary breakdown of organic materials and generate the heat associated with composting. Other composters, including microbes, fungi, worms and a host of invertebrates also take part in the composting process. The make-up and conditions of organic materials influence how long composting takes.

Bacteria are the Powerhouse of the Compost Pile

Bacteria perform the primary breakdown of organic materials and generate the heat associated with composting. Bacteria don’t have to be added to the compost pile. They are present virtually everywhere and enter the pile on every single bit of organic matter. Many types of bacteria participate in the composting process, thriving at different temperatures and on different materials.

Psychrophilic - First phase of microbial activity. They do their best work at 55°F, but can carry on right down to 0°F. As they eat away at organic materials, they give off a small amount of heat.

Mesophilic - Second phase of microbial activity. Most of the decomposition in a compost pile is mesophilic. They do their work at temperatures between 70°F and 90°F.

Thermophilic - Third and final phase of microbial activity. At 100°F, the thermophiles take over and raise the temperature to about 160°F. However, the highest range temperatures last only 3 to 5 days as the microbes use up the air and moisture in the compost pile.

Nonbacterial Composters

In addition to bacteria, primary decomposers include actinomycetes, fungi, redworms, sowbugs, slugs and snails. It is useful to be aware of their value, lest they be mistaken as pests.

Actinomycetes produce greyish growths throughout compost and give the pile a pleasing, earthy smell. They thrive on woody materials and survive in a wide range of conditions. Sow bugs feed on woody materials and durable leaf tissues, and are often mistaken as pests. Worms play an important part in breaking down organic materials and stabilizing finished compost. They coat organic materials with a mucus-like film that binds small particles together and protects nutrients from leaching.

Second- and third-level decomposers feed on organic materials and on primary decomposers and their wastes. Common examples include nematodes, mites, springtails and centipedes. Nematodes, or roundworms, are the most abundant invertebrates in the soil. They prey on bacteria, protozoa, fungal spores and each other. Mold mites feed on yeasts in fermenting materials. Springtails feed principally on fungi; although they also eat nematodes and small bits of disintegrated organic matter. Centipedes are frequently found in compost piles. They prey on almost any invertebrate near their size or smaller.
Videos

Three videos that explain the current plastic pollution crisis and how we got here.

**The Story of Stuff**
From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

View "The Story of Stuff"
Runtime: 21 minutes

**Plastic Wars**
With the plastic industry expanding like never before and the crisis of ocean pollution growing, FRONTLINE and NPR investigate the fight over the future of plastics.

View "Plastic Wars" - Preview
Runtime: 31 seconds

View "Plastic Wars"
Runtime: 54 minutes

**The Story of Bottled Water**
The Story of Bottled Water, released on March 22, 2010 (World Water Day) employs the Story of Stuff style to tell the story of manufactured demand—how you get Americans to buy more than half a billion bottles of water every week when it already flows from the tap. Over five minutes, the film explores the bottled water industry's attacks on tap water and its use of seductive, environmental-themed advertising to cover up the mountains of plastic waste it produces. The film concludes with a call to take back the tap, not only by making a personal commitment to avoid bottled water, but by supporting investments in clean, available tap water for all.

View "The Story of Bottled Water"
Runtime: 8 minutes

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Contact Us
Lori Delacruz Lewis
Assistant Director of Sustainability for Education

- Sustainable Dallas College
- Report an Accessibility Issue
Dallas College Art Students Texture Project: Recycled Masterpiece Collage

Texture is a visual element, which appeals to our sense of touch. There are two categories of artistic texture: tactile (actual) and visual (implied). Architecture and sculpture employ actual material, which has a tactile texture. The term tactile texture can be used to describe an uneven paint surface. Thick application of pigment is called impasto. Artists can create the impression of texture on a flat, smooth painted surface by reproducing color and value patterns of familiar textures. Artists can encourage us to see texture where none actually exists. This is called visual texture. Pattern is an arranged repetition of lines, colors, values, textures forms, or shapes. Collage and Sustainable Artists to research for inspiration, techniques, and ideas:
Robert Rauschenberg, Chris Jordan (TED talk & Midtown Documentary), Jasper Johns, Derek Gores, Jane Perkins, Nick Gentry, Zac Freeman, Mark Bradford (Art21 documentary), and Vik Muniz (Waste Land -Netflix documentary).

Create collage, which is based on a well-known work of art or masterpiece. Choose one from this website: http://en.most-famous-paintings.com/MostFamousPaintings.nsf/ListOfTop100MostPopularPainting?OpenForm

Project Instructions:

1. You are encouraged to use discarded items and recyclables found around your home and community. This in one of the Green Diploma based assignments that make this class "green" and a focus on sustainability.
2. Prepare collage materials for the project. For precision, trace around a sturdy pattern if desired.
3. Plan out where each color and shape is going to be placed within the design.
4. Arrange and rearrange the parts until satisfied with the whole or gestalt. Fill the entire paper or canvas with collage materials. Work from the background to the subject matter. Collage newspaper or paper to the entire background before starting to work with the imagery. See demonstrations in class.
5. Utilize canvas, recycled wood or other support, or Bristol board as your ground and your recycled materials as your media for this project. Try to find a discarded scrap piece of wood, cabinet door, panel, pallet, etc. to use as your support.
6. Limit yourself to a color palette similar to the original artwork you all are recreating.
7. Fit the shapes together snugly, like puzzle pieces, and glue them to the canvas or recycled support. You may want to slightly overlap the pieces. Applying the glue or acrylic medium with a brush evenly will help with keeping the shapes from bubbling up. Rubbing over the glued shapes with your bone folder will also aid with this.

Project Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of texture, shapes, pattern, and collage & how to utilize it successfully in a design
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how to create a pattern and collage
3. Use of recycled materials. Project should be made up of at least 90% recycled materials.
4. Excellent craftsmanship
5. Demonstrate skill with the media of collage, and actual/visual texture
6. Ability to follow directions of assignment and work ethic in class
7. Creativity and Innovation
By Daniele Champine

By Kardell Thorne
By Heather Lee

By Zohra Dosa
By Kyle Franks

By Bijal Patel
By Aubry Thompson

By Amanda Vigil

By Marely Negrete
Dallas College Richland Campus Drama Program

The 2020-2021 school year at Richland reflects a continued commitment to teaching and modeling safe and sustainable industry practices in the interest of better serving students and proactive conservation of our planet for future generations. Theater, by its very nature, is all about reframing ideas and repurposing physical objects. Artists who work in the theater are trained to follow a creative process of translating words into actions. The vocational skills they acquire studying theater lend themselves to advocacy for positive change and the pursuit of simple solutions to complex challenges. This often involves experimentation and the ability to re-envision the ways in which students and staff interact with our work environment. The Richland theater faculty places particular emphasis on the Four R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink as methods for reducing waste in the creation of performing art.

Greenroom / Makeup Rooms / Dressing Rooms

2019-2020 Theatre renovations in the Fannin Hall makeup and green rooms saw the removal of old and dangerous Hollywood-style makeup mirrors surrounded by numerous incandescent lamps. These fixtures produced extreme heat and posed safety hazards with hairspray and other makeup materials. With approximately 12 lamps per 24 makeup stations at 100W per lamp replacing the 288 lamps with Rosco light pads illuminating the 20 new makeup stations improved safety, cut down on heat production, reduced air conditioning issues and greatly reduced electrical usage. The 20 mirrors are lit by almost 8 linear feet 1-1/2" wide Rosco L1 Light Pads that surround the mirrors and use approximately 28 watts of electricity per mirror this reduces energy usage for the makeup mirror to a mere 560 watts from the previous 28,800 watts of the old incandescent makeup mirrors.
Renovations to greenroom and makeup room overhead lighting replaced numerous incandescent overhead light fixtures with 11 compact fluorescent fixtures on motion sensor timers to reduce electricity usage.

Fannin Performance Hall / Arena Theater / Backstage

Upgrades to the Fannin Performance Hall house light system to ETC ARC Pro net and We-ef Lighting LED fixtures have provided greater safety and reduced energy usage. Replacing 29 Par 38 250W lamps and 13 150W flood lights with 29 ETC 4 Cell Arc Pro and 13 ETC single Cell Arc Pro House lights saves 9,100 watts of energy. Additions of new specialty LED technology from We-ef Lighting allowed for the addition of lighting over stairs, in exit areas and on the front edge of the stage to improve safety. The LED technology made improved safety possible in a way incandescent fixtures could not and only added to the overall energy load by 276 watts.

Converting to LED technology has allowed for energy savings, reduced maintenance costs in materials and labor to replace lamps. It has also improved safety in the makeup rooms and helped allow for safety upgrades in an aging building that was reaching its electrical load limits with incandescent fixtures. Reduced electrical consumption has allowed for safety improvements with improved electrical capacity over the system. The LED technology has also produced even fields of light in the Fannin Performance Hall for theater patrons, thereby improving safety. In the last 7 years the Richland campus technical theater faculty worked to convert theatrical fixtures to LED technology system by system concentrating limited financial resources on high wattage, high heat producing fixtures in our stage lighting rig. Replacing 24, 2000watt 8" Fresnel’s with 15 LED Fixtures and replacing 32,000 watts of Cycle lights with LED fixtures. Considering the need to upgrade other conventional fixtures, current efforts are focused on trying to replace aging inefficient arc follow spots with LED options that will reduce heat, improve artistic capabilities while reducing energy usage.
Focusing on new technology and advances on energy usage in upgrades to the sound system at Richland lead to the acquisition of a D&B Audiotecnik system that resulted in decreased energy usage while delivering the modern sound capabilities needed. Essential in an older building with limited electrical capacity struggling to meet modern audio needs.

Richland campus facilities department has been an outstanding partner in embracing sustainability, replacing high bay arc fixtures in our shops and stage spaces with LED fixtures allowing for improved safety and reduced energy usage.

**Scene Shop / Costume Shop / Prop Shop / Storage Spaces**

Sustainable practices are what distinguish theatrical production and manufacturing from many othersimilar industries. In the Richland scenic studios, properties storage and costume shop, most items that are pulled from stock or purchased are rethought, repurposed, inventoried and stored away for future reuse. This maxim applies to the vast majority of physical objects and equipment that appear on our stages.

In the Scene Shop, many of the materials utilized for manufacturing and construction are conveniently reusable. All hardware, screws, rigging, trim, moldings, pipe, and lumber that remain relatively intact after a show are disassembled, cleaned, organized according to type / physical dimensions and stored away. Any plywood larger than one square foot and all stock lumber longer than 12” are neatly placed in scrap lumber racks for easy access when the next set is being constructed.

Richland Theater Production keeps a multi-material recycling center located in the Scene Shop where staff and students can place recyclable items according to their designation. This area features containers for used household materials, batteries, printer cartridges, scrap metal, grocery bags, and a single-stream recycling bin for various plastics, ferrous metals, aluminum and paper products. The Richland Costume Shop acts as a laboratory for imaginative uses of textiles and a repository for used clothing, hats and shoes. All items in stock are kept clean, neatly organized and filed according to type. In this way, every costume inventory acts as a sort of museum for preserving and repurposing vintage garments. After a show closes, the costume items that were utilized are laundered and all added adornments like buttons, Velcro and trim are removed and placed in a drawer for later use. Any large bolts of fabric are put back on the shelf. Smaller scraps are cut into miniscule “swatches” for use in costume design classes. All unusable textile remnants are placed in a bucket for recycling into useful materials like furniture stuffing and home insulation. Costume construction materials and supplies are organized and accessible for sustained reuse. The Costume Shop Laundry Room features high-efficiency front load machines that reduce water usage and allow for appropriate steam cleaning to eliminate health hazards of shared and stored costumes.

Properties design is a collage art form that mixes and matches found objects to make extraordinary compositions and functional tools of storytelling. The Richland Props room is full of unique items that might end up in a landfill were they not so useful to artists who manipulate them as a painter would use paint, as a medium for their art. The Props Room is full of cast-off, eclectic and hard-to-find items that are organized and inventoried according to type. When a script calls for a certain prop, it can be pulled from stock rather than purchased new. This helps reduce waste and keep show budgets within scope.
Productions / Professional Affiliations

With an eye towards the future of the performing arts industry, the Richland Theater faculty have incorporated novel pedagogy into the theater curriculum by allowing sustainability to be central to the concept phase of the creative process. Richland Theater has also established and maintained relationships with professional organizations that benefit theater students, focus on innovation and promote sustainable industry practices.

These initiatives are exemplified in the approach to productions like *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. This show won, among other accolades, the award of excellence for “Innovative Production Design with Sustainable Materials” at The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The concept of the show focused on human’s relationship with nature and our responsibility to care for our planet. The design incorporated found objects, refuse and renewable materials to create the scenery and costumes. For example, the set was comprised of a curtain made entirely out of 1,426 plastic bottles retrieved from refuse and recycling receptacles on campus and elsewhere. Costumes were constructed using, discarded plastic bags, straws and parts of old electronics, among other items.

Additionally, Richland enjoys an official relationship with Earth X, an international, nonprofit environmental forum whose purpose is to educate and inspire people to action towards a more sustainable future. As part of the agreement, Richland theater design students receive invitations to participate in public forums and exhibitions at Earth X events. For example, students presented their research and costume designs at the Earth X Dallas Sustainable Costume / Fashion Design event where they were celebrated for their innovative use of renewable or discarded materials. This was a magnificent chance for the students to gain professional conceptualization and presentation skills. Richland continues to seek new initiatives and opportunities for theater students to forge professional connections and embrace innovative, ecological and contemporary approaches to creating art.

Public Health Awareness: Sustainable Menstruation Conversation

This was an inclusive, honest, and stigma-free conversation about the impact of menstruation from an environmental, physical, and global perspective. The first event was student-led with faculty and staff advisors and was focused on making participants feel empowered and motivated to period better. The panel discussion featured CEO and Founder of Dot Cup Betsy Drach and three Dallas College employees and two student leaders:

- Dr. Maria Boccalandro, Dean of Special Academic Programs, Dallas College
- Linda Skidmore, Nurse, Dallas College
- Karen Gallegos, Student, Dallas College
- Oriana Silva, Student, Dallas College and University of North Texas
- Betsy Drach, CEO and Founder of Dot Cup
- Kari Andrews, Executive Assistant, Dallas College

The second event was student-led and held on Instagram Live as a follow-up for students to learn more about different and global perspectives. The Instagram Live featured students from Dallas College, University of North Texas and Texas Woman’s University:

- Ferdinando Castro, Student, Dallas College
- Olivia Brookshire, Student, Texas Woman’s University
- Oriana Silva, Student, Dallas College and University of North Texas
- Joy Wambua, Student, Dallas College
Between both events, 29 students attended and will be receiving a complimentary Dot Cup.

(Photo credit: Dot Cup, www.thebetterperiod.com)
Dallas College new Construction Sciences Building showing some of the C&D waste ready to be diverted from the landfill.

(photo credit: Joeris General Contractors)
(photo credit: Joeris General Contractors)
(photo credit: Joeris General Contractors)
Campus Race to Zero Waste on Dallas College Sustainable Brookhaven Campus Instagram

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 8, 2021, AND ENDING MARCH 26, 2021, EACH WEEK A WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED FOR THE MOST CREATIVE, MOST RECYCLED MATERIALS, OR MOST LIKES ON THEIR POST.

RULES

- You must post a picture of recycling or zero waste ideas
- Your Instagram profile must be public
- You must use the hashtags #DallasCollegeRecycles or #DallasCollegeZeroWaste
- Tag @Sustainable_Brookhaven and @Sustainable_North_Lake to have extra-points

BE PART OF A FAIR AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION WITH COLLEGES ACROSS THE US AND CANADA.
When your commitment to recycling does not waiver, I took...