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Summer residence hall recycling proves successful

If funds are raised and more student workers are hired, A&M will extend the recycling program into the fall semester.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

The success of Texas A&M's summer residence hall pilot recycling program may help establish an expanded program in all residence halls.

Summer residents used the 12 bins around the 10 Northside halls to recycle 2,299 pounds of paper and 210 pounds of aluminum during the 10-week semester.

An environmental impact study by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission found that the recycled materials saved 19 mature trees, three barrels of oil and 7,400 gallons of water.

Cassandra DeLarios, recycling program co-director and a senior geography major, said the data from the program qualifies it as a success.

"I think the program went fairly well," DeLarios said. "We made a lot of good contacts and learned a lot about some of the things that need to be changed to get a program like this off the ground."

Julie Kemp, recycling program co-director and a senior civil engineering major, said success also lies in the support from the residents.

"We gained a lot of support with the students," Kemp said. "I think that students responded well to this program. It was a good way to inform and educate them about recycling in the halls."

DeLarios and Kemp said they would like to see the program continue and expand into the fall, with new collection sites near the Southside residence halls. But a lack of money may stall the program.

The original summer pilot program was funded by a \$3,500 grant from ACUS, a residence hall activity fund provided by a local long-distance telephone company.

The grant was used to pay for several 65-gallon bins and to hire two

student workers, who collected the recycled materials.

Now the grant money is gone, and other funds are necessary to extend the program.

Kemp said that because much of the equipment, like promotional fliers and the recycling bins, can be reused, a large amount of money is not needed.

"We've done a lot of things already," she said. "We don't need an extensive amount of money to keep it going."

Administrative and faculty support is vital to making the program work, Kemp said. Currently, the co-directors are trying to establish a recycling advisory board composed of administrators and students.

Kemp said she would like to see more people involved in the organization and execution of the program. With almost five times the number of summer residents moving into the halls in the fall, more help will be essential, she said.

"Right now, we have only four people doing this," she said. "We need a lot more people involved, especially administration and faculty."

The program will also need help from residents who are not accustomed to recycling.

During the pilot program, students often threw garbage into the recycling bins, contaminating the recyclables. Since sorting the materials in the bins would be too costly, workers had to throw out the bins' contents, costing revenue.

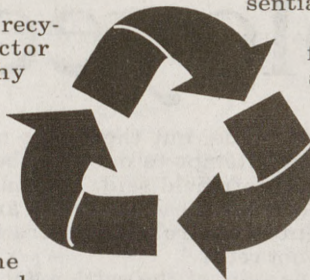
Joe Sanchez, Texas A&M recycling coordinator, estimated that up to 30 percent of the collected materials was thrown out because of contamination.

"It's a never-ending problem," Sanchez said. "It happens every day and everywhere we recycle."

DeLarios said students may not have known what the bins were for and assumed they were trash cans.

Education and promotion are needed to make residents more aware of the program, she said, and to push students to make the necessary changes to make recycling successful.

"Recycling takes more than a lot of people saying 'Let's do it,'" she said. "It takes a real change of habits."



Sorority rushees anticipate bid day

Rushees will receive their invitations to join sororities tomorrow at the Oaks Park Pavilion.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

More than 650 rushees were introduced to sororities this week during Sorority Rush '95. Rush administrators said that even though the number of rushees is not larger than in the past, the number of upperclassmen joining sororities has increased.

The sororities have been hosting parties for rushees every night since Tuesday to acquaint prospective new members with all 10 organizations in the Panhellenic Council.

Sorority Rush '95 will close tonight on Friday, two blocks between the Dominic and University Oak streets in College Station.

Stacy Bush, Panhellenic Council president and a senior industrial distribution major, said she selected by a sorority is a mutual decision by rushees and the sororities.

Bid day is tomorrow at the Oaks Park Pavilion at 6 p.m.

"The rushees will get their bid (an invitation to join the sorority) under the pavilion and go out to their chapter," Bush said.

Kathy Silkey, Panhellenic Council rush coordinator and a senior business analysis major, said bid day is an exciting week.

"We are excited about the girls rushing," she said. "They seem to be enjoying themselves."

The sorority system has been improving over the years, Silkey said, and sororities have been growing. Silkey recalled the process being different when she rushed in Fall 1992.

"We have gotten rid of unnecessary things that make the process complex," she said. "Now rushees can have a better time and get to know each other and the other women in the sorority. We've made it a more enjoyable experience."


Rushees can now take a shuttle bus from the northside, southside and at the Oaks Park Mall to sorority row.

Kelly Eoff, Kappa Alpha Theta president and a senior biology major, said the rushees were excited this year, and the new shuttle bus system worked really well.

"This is something that I would definitely see continued in the future," Eoff said. "The rushees would have to park so far away from our parties."

Eoff said Rho-chis, counselors who work with the rushees and help make the decision process easier, have continued to be successful.

"One of the neat things about Texas A&M is how strong our sororities are," she said. "The competition between the sororities is healthy, but it is healthy. There is no animosity."



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