

Updated 4/15/2013

# Recycling Frequently Asked Questions (Faculty/Staff)

## When will this program begin?

Late May 2013.

## Why is Georgia College introducing a campus-wide recycling program?

As an institution that values Reason, Respect and Responsibility, Georgia College strives to be good stewards of our environmental resources. In application, this translates into increasing recycling and reducing waste production. A recent audit determined that more than 66 percent of what we throw away is recyclable material. We want to make it easier to recycle what is the bulk of what we throw away so as to redirect this material from the landfill where it currently goes. In addition, this recycling plan allows us to be both environmentally and fiscally responsible.

## Who was involved in the development of this recycling plan?

This plan was developed and endorsed by a committee comprised of faculty, staff and students who represent the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Office, Plant Operations, University Housing and the Student Green Fee.

## Who do I contact if I have a question?

You can email [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu) or contact Assistant Director of Sustainability Lori Strawder at 478-445-7016 with any questions or comments.

## Why is a recycling bin better than a trash can?

It reflects our values. In addition, trash cans need to be serviced once a day to prevent unpleasant odor and deter pests. Recycling bins only need to be serviced weekly because it is dry materials such as paper, cardboard or plastic. Because 66 percent of what we throw away is recyclable, we are going to swap recycling bins for trash cans. Central trash bins will be added and replace centralized recycling bins.

## Where do I take my non-recyclable items?

Most items are recyclable, however trash (defined as food waste, anything that is wet or items that may attract pests) should be taken to a common area trashcan. These will be located in restrooms, kitchenettes and break room. Your custodian will be able to direct you to your nearest trashcan.

## What if my office area needs more trashcans or recycling bins?

No problem. Simply email your request to [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu) and we will be in touch.

## Where should I take bulk recycling?

If you have a large amount of recycling, it should be taken to a recycling center, typically located on every floor in each academic and administrative building. You can also contact [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu) for assistance with bulk recycling. **LINK:** View a list of recycling centers by building.

## How often are common-area trashcans emptied?

Custodians will service all common area trashcans daily. If you are noticing an issue or expect large crowds, you may contact your custodian directly or email [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu). Of course, these areas will be serviced often enough to meet the need.

## Who do I contact if my recycling center or common area trashcan needs attention?

You can either contact your custodian or email [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu).

### **How often are recycling bins emptied?**

A recycling bin under your desk will be emptied weekly. If it becomes full prior to your custodian's weekly visit, please take your bin to the recycling center in your building and empty it there. You can also view a list of recycling centers by building. [LINK](#)

### **Do I need to separate recyclable materials?**

No. Georgia College uses single stream recycling. All recycling is co-mingled until it is taken off campus for processing by our waste disposal vendor.

### **What materials are recyclable?**

- Copy paper
- Newsprint
- Brown paper bags
- Magazines
- Catalogs/telephone/soft cover books
- Mail/envelopes
- Paper/paperboard (cereal/tissue boxes)
- Cardboard
- Narrow-neck plastic bottles (milk jugs, bleach/detergent/shampoo bottles)
- Plastic grocery bags
- Metal cans (tin/steel/aluminum)
- Got a question about something not listed? Contact [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu)

### **What happens to all the old trash cans? Can I keep mine?**

This plan will result in a need for additional trash bins in common areas – many trash bins will be repurposed to these locations. Unusable bins will be discarded and usable bins will be sent through the surplus process. The university cannot provide a bin for a service we do not provide. For this reason, we ask staff and faculty to not keep their trash bins.

### **May I bring my own trash bin?**

Yes, an employee may choose to bring their own bin to use under their desk. The employee will be responsible for emptying this bin into a common area trash bin in a regular manner to avoid smells and pest problems. Another alternative is to keep a few plastic grocery sacks at your desk. However we encourage faculty and staff to get in the habit of using recycling in the office and putting waste in the centralized locations.

### **Where does our recycling go?**

All recyclables and trash are collected from campus buildings and dispersed to the designated GC Recycling Centers managed by Advances Disposal Services in Milledgeville, GA ([www.advanceddisposal.com](http://www.advanceddisposal.com)). For more details about this process, please contact [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu) or the Assistant Director of Sustainability, Lori Strawder, at 478-445-7016.

### **Who enforces the new recycling program?**

As with all other university policies, supervisors will work with employees to ensure the recycling policy is in place in all areas of campus.

### **How is this new? Haven't we had recycling on our campus for a while?**

While we have had recycling efforts on our campus before, previous plans were dependent on volunteers to collect recyclables and transport the materials to appropriate recycling centers. These volunteers could only provide limited coverage. For a recycling program to be sustainable and permanent, full-time human resources must be dedicated to it. This new plan represents our first campus-wide recycling initiative that is sustainable and financially feasible.

**How will mobility issues and other special circumstances be accommodated?**

If you have a special situation that will impact your ability to participate in the recycling program, please contact your supervisor. If a reasonable adjustment cannot be identified, please contact us at [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu).

**Has this approach to recycling been implemented with success on other university campuses?**

Yes. Clemson is a great example of this type of program operating successfully. In developing our recycling plan, considerable research was gathered and Georgia College has utilized what is considered to be best practices from across the nation in the implementation of our plan.

**What other things is Georgia College doing to promote responsible stewardship of our environment?**

You can learn more about Georgia College's efforts to be responsible stewards of our environment here: <http://www.gcsu.edu/green/>

## Recycling Frequently Asked Questions (Students)

**How do I participate in recycling?**

If you live on campus, you can collect your recyclable materials in your room/apartment using any type of bin you choose. At your convenience, take your recycling to the same location you take your trash where some bins are marked recycling.

If you live off campus, be sure to take advantage of recycling bins in hallways, common areas and classrooms.

**Who do I contact if I have a question?**

You can email [recycle@gcsu.edu](mailto:recycle@gcsu.edu) with any questions or comments.

**Who was involved in the development of this recycling plan?**

This plan was developed and endorsed by a committee comprised of representatives from the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Office, Plant Operations, University Housing, the Student Green Fee and student representatives.

**Will there be a trashcan or recycling bin in classrooms?**

Recycling bins will be provided in classrooms. Trashcans will be provided in centralized locations in each academic area.

**Do I need to bag my recycled materials before taking them to the designated recycling area?**

No, you do not need to bag, however please ensure all recyclable items make it into the appropriate container and the lid is closed.