

Project Proposal:

Recycling is an integral part of the sustainable stance we take on our campus. Due to Kansas State University budget cuts two full-time employees and two part-time student positions were eliminated. This has greatly reduced the staff available to carry out the current recycling efforts on campus. With the ever-changing community and the addition of new facilities, this decreased staff can simply not meet all of the requests for recycling tasks that exist on campus. In an effort to maintain our current status of recycling, and possibly continue to improve our program we would like to request funds to support two part-time students. These individuals would assist with various recycling related tasks (i.e. comingle, e-waste, compost, glass, and ink-cartridge pick-ups) that constantly occur across the breadth of our campus. There would also be the opportunity for these students to assist with various recycling programs that occur (i.e. Earth Day, education, etc.). While benefiting the team that maintains our current recycling program, these positions would also provide students with a desire for experience in environmental awareness, sustainability, and other environmentally-focused topics to have the opportunity to do so on campus.

Matrix:

The table below demonstrates how our persistence to improve the recycling program on campus has drastically improved our diversion rate. Over the last four years with the assistance of faculty, staff, and students we have made great strides, however, we have a long way to go. The funding for two students to assist with this would allow us to continue our progress.

Items	2012	2013	2014	2015
DIVERSION RATE	17%	24.5 %	29.74%	32.25 %
Cardboard		361,868	440,126	446,780
Single Stream/Comingle		688,763	843,875	939,322
E-Waste	106,041	114,457	106,635	90,060
Pallets	36,765	94,684	95,580	118,686
Glass	22,330	52,520	98,480	163,021
Compost	122,700	133,153	186,793	133,035
Soil	0.00	141,795	257,995	157,490
Scrap Metal	30,914	42,809	93,112	95,028
TOTALS (pounds)	1,310,822	1,925,039	2,122,596	2,143,422

Data such as this is gathered regularly and can be made available as requested. We are hoping that with two additional students we can continue our current recycling status and possibly even improve. Our biggest fear is that with our current reduced staff that pick-ups and recycling maintenance efforts may fall behind. If this were to happen the campus community may no longer experience the positive efforts and ease of our current system. This can lead to a negative perception and possibly lowered participation in our steps to improve the sustainable stance of our campus community.

Selection & Training:

A posting will be created and shared through various channels to inform students of this opportunity. Applicants will be screened through an application and interview process. Once chosen these students would receive training regarding proper procedures, safety, and campus etiquette. The Department of Facilities will provide safety devices (i.e. gloves, ear plugs, eyewear, etc.).

Funds Maintenance:

If granted funding from the Green Action Fund, the money would be maintained and dispersed by the Recycling Center portion of the Department of Facilities at Kansas State University. Bill Spiegel, Project Manager for the Facilities Refuse and Recycling Program, would oversee the scheduling and mentorship of these students.

Proposed Budget:

2 student employees at \$7.25 / hour

Estimate 20 hours / week

Requesting funding for 18 weeks

$2 \times 20 \text{ hours} \times 18 \text{ weeks} \times \$7.25 = \$5,220$

Applicant Information:


Bill Spiegel

Project Manager

Department of Facilities

Office: 785-532-7430

Cell: 785-341-1385

Email: wspiegel@k-state.edu

Sponsors Signatures

Applicant Signature / Date