

Recycling program is on a roll

The recycling program has really begun to take off. Faculty, staff and student participation are up, energy is up, and, best of all, volume is up.

Congratulations to all of you sorters, the people who take the time to make it work. If you see a student recycler, give him or her a special thank you. You have probably noticed how hard they are working to keep up with the recycling we all generate.

The statistics are great: over 265,000 pounds of food and paper waste were composted (paper towels from public bathrooms and dining halls) and we recycled over 50 percent of the solid waste generated on campus during the month of

September.

If you compare our trips to the landfill/transfer station last July, August and September to the number of trips we made in those three months this year, you would see that we made 20 less trips. I repeat, 20 less trips! With numbers like these, I do not see how anyone cannot get excited.

We are not stopping there either. You will continue to see changes and improvements throughout the year.

For instance, on Oct. 7 the recycling crew began a trial project to collect cans and bottles on the campus grounds.

This alleviates the need to enter a building to recycle a soda can or

juice bottle and will hopefully divert more recyclables from the college wastestream.

The white cylindrical containers have a flap door and a sticker, marking them for cans and bottles. Although the sticker instructs you to rinse each can or bottle, we know this will not be possible outdoors. These specially marked containers are strategically placed near highly travelled areas and in front of buildings that forbid eating or drinking, such as Starr Library.

I would like to thank members of the Middlebury College community for using these containers instead of throwing recyclables away. At the same time, I emphasize that

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they are only for beverage recyclables. Each container is located inches away from a waste can, the proper receptacle for all garbage.

Paper recyclables should not be placed in these bins either; they become contaminated by leftovers from the cans and bottles.

The idea of implementing outdoor recycling came from several

people, as well as in response to the number of cans and bottles that were left near waste cans, with the hope that they would be recycled. The new Addison County laws concerning recycling were also a major impetus to the project.

As of Oct. 9, Middlebury College disposes of waste at the new transfer station.

Each load is closely monitored for hazardous waste and

recyclables.

The new waste/recycling ordinance will impose fines on the college every time the Addison County Solid Waste District determines that there is more than 5 percent recyclables in our waste

Please help defer costs and unnecessary fines by recycling.

Holly Cookis '93
Recycling Coordinator