

The Recycle Center **AS Office of Assessment**



*The AS Assessment Process
2012 Board Recommendations*

Introduction

The AS Recycle Center presented its initial written report to the Associated Students Structure and Program Advisory Committee on January 6th, 2012. The current statement of purpose for the office is:

The mission of the A.S. Recycle Center is to provide the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to recycle on campus, to educate the University community on the recycling process at Western, and to continually increase our collection efforts in order to reduce Western's waste stream. In addition to this, we provide student employment opportunities and work experience, specifically in recycling and waste management.

Programs/Services Provided

The Recycle Center is currently responsible for collecting all of the recycling on campus, including the resident halls, the academic buildings, the Wade King Recreation Center, the Viking Union and all dining venues. This service includes sorting all of the recycling barrels by their type; the office separates and recycles glass, aluminum, tin, plastic, paper, cardboard, wood, and steel. At present, the Recycle Center collects 72% of the University's waste stream coming out of the non-resident hall buildings.

The RC organizes and manages the Recovery Drive at the end of every Spring Quarter. The office sets up collection barrels in every resident hall for students to donate items no longer needed when they are move out. Often this effort results in the collection of clothing, indoor lighting products, footwear, blankets, and other domestic items.

Strategic Recommendations

- 1. Recommend the transfer of the AS Recycle Center to Viking Union Facilities in order to foster efficient work production, consistent student hiring practices, as well as a balanced and healthy relationship with Western's campus community.**

This change would reflect the long-standing reputation of the Recycle Center as a campus service office, as opposed to an environmental programming office – a distinction that was made some years ago, but as yet not fully institutionalized. In fact, VU Facilities has managed the Recycle Center since it became an AS program in 1976.

With the transfer would come the following:

- The office would retain its name, the *AS Recycle Center*.
- The AS would retain the position of the AS Recycle Center Educator as a salaried employee, funded by the Recycle Center.

The transfer of the AS Recycle Center to Viking Union Facilities more accurately reflects the operational duties inherent in the current RC mission. The personnel and management conflicts that have been the source of continued discussion in previous years would be largely resolved by tailoring hiring and other practices to the needs of the Recycle Center. This also removes a cumbersome workload from the AS Personnel Office, who are equally burdened by the current RC-AS relationship.

This shift also allows the Recycle Center to be funded alongside comparable services, which makes budgetary discussions clearer.

- 2. Advise that the Recycle Center create and maintain a residence hall recycling curriculum to be put into place via the AS Recycle Center Educator.**

For some time now, the Recycle Center has tried to increase residence hall recycling despite the uphill battle of mitigating constant resident and Resident Advisor turnover.

Going forward, the RC should create a late-summer/early-fall education curriculum to better serve the office's goals, as well as the residence hall community. A more comprehensive commitment by University Residences and the Office of Sustainability is needed to improve the percentage of residence hall waste beyond the current 35% level. Therefore, further steps should be taken to ensure a constructive relationship between the AS Recycle Center and the WWU Office of Sustainability in order to guarantee this curriculum's effectiveness.