

Playing the recycling game

BY DANA MENDOZA
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People like to play games, right? Well here's one that challenges the individual and the community.

To start, try to answer a few simple questions: #1. Where are the recycling dumpsters and bins located on campus? #2. What materials are we able to recycle at Guilford? #3. Do you know how recycling works on campus?

#4. Do you care about the answers to these questions?

After reading this article, test yourself and see if you are able to give complete answers to the first three questions. Once you have become mentally involved in this game, you'll be surprised how easily you can become physically involved. But first you must learn how the system works.

As I have recently learned, recycling at Guilford is not as simple as it may appear. For example, how many of us know the person who organizes recycling on campus?

The man partially responsible is David Petree. He is in charge of the

recycling program at Guilford College and has been since his arrival at Guilford in 1993. Although his job description as director of landscaping and grounds is diverse in its needs, Petree has dedicated a great deal of his attention towards stepping up the recycling program at Guilford.

Petree attributes the progress he has managed to make in the past three and a half years to student involvement. "Recycling at Guilford has evolved over the years," commented Petree. "There wasn't much of a program when I first came here. It has grown more and more due to necessity into a student-run program."

Students collect the bags from the recycling bins dispersed in various buildings on campus. Can't picture any? Well, next time you're in Archdale hall, Bauman basement, Dana auditorium, Duke hall basement mail room, Founders hall basement, Hege library break room, behind New Garden hall, in the Physical Plant, or in the P.E. Center lobby, take a look.

There are very big, very hard to miss recycling dumpsters that the

same small group of students revisit weekly to pick up the green recycling bags that are available through hall directors, resident advisors, or the information desk. Recycling at Guilford is not that difficult, but it is up to the students to help further the program.

According to Petree, most of the credit belongs to the members of the environmental club, Forevergreen. It is a student-run organization that has dedicated itself to bettering the recycling program on campus and to increasing community awareness.

But, according to the students, it was David Petree that has truly helped make a difference. "Once he saw that there was student interest and commitment to recycling he put even more effort into the program," commented Forevergreen member Nathan Tar.

Another Forevergreen member felt that, "David has been receptive to our ideas and will to do whatever he can to help. We haven't really gotten any feedback from staff or faculty members. He is the only one that has actually shown an interest."

Together their goal is to make recycling as convenient as possible for the students and to increase awareness and participation in recycling both inside and outside of the Guilford community.

At this point Guilford is able to take advantage of the co-mingling program available through the City of Greensboro.

Through this program, Guilford College collects aluminum, cardboard, chipboard, glass, magazines,

newspapers, office paper, plastics, steel, and aerosol cans in the same container.

Although the recycling program at Guilford has improved over the years, there is still a great deal that can be done.

But it is impossible to become more efficient without the support, awareness, and involvement of the faculty, staff, administration, and students at Guilford.

If you are a member of the faculty, staff, or administration step up and be a role model for your associates and the students. If you are a student, step up and be a leader among your friends. There are only eight hours that are presently given towards recycling because the student involvement is so low.

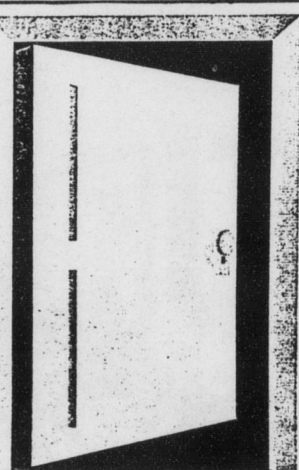
If anyone is interested in doing work with the recycling program, contact David Petree at ext. x2904 or sit in on a Forevergreen meeting Tuesday nights at 7:30 in the Gallery.

Did you get all the answers right? If you did, good. Rock on with your recycling-aware self. If you didn't get the answers, then I hope you are now more aware and motivated to help.

You may have mastered the mental aspect of the game, but now it's time to learn and become active in the physical aspect.

Take this game with you and teach others how to play.

One last fact I will leave for you to ponder: According to Steven King, the head of Franklin County Recycling, approximately 80% of waste can be recycled. But only 20% is actually recycled.



LIBRARY

EXTENDED
WEEKEND HOURS

Fridays - April 17 & April 24
8:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Saturdays - April 18 & April 25
10:00 AM - 1:00 AM

We hope you will find these additional library, weekend, hours helpful as we come to the close of the semester. *The Circulation Desk Staff*

Exam Week extended library hours will be posted soon!

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