



April 18, 2013

As we pursue our goal of zero waste and continue to progress towards a more sustainable campus we recognize that our first major step is to decrease the amount of trash generated while increasing the volume of recyclables collected. Free standing trash containers are inimical to this goal as these units are collecting both landfill material and recyclables. Most trash containers in buildings should be accompanied by recycling bins. When these bins are co-located with a trash container we like to refer to this as our “Quad-System.” These systems are very effective when located together in this manner as our recycling program currently relies on source separation.

In order to collect the tremendous amount of recyclables that are necessary to make a significant difference, we will need containers with adequate volume and they will need to be serviced on a regular basis by our Building Services team. By having containers on wheels and additional swap-out containers, we will be able to better handle the volume that needs to be generated to reach our initial goal of 45% recyclable diversion rate. Our current rate is just around 35%.

Following an exhaustive search lasting more than a decade, the Facilities Management team has selected the Rubbermaid 40-gallon Square Brute container as the standard recycling bin for Razorback Recycling. These recycling bins are cost efficient and functional. The recycling bins are clearly labeled and color coded to aid in proper recycling. We currently offer white recycling bins for white paper, grey recycling bins for all other paper and blue recycling bins for cans and bottles. There is also a collection of personal desk side recycling containers that mirror the larger systems found in building hallways across campus.

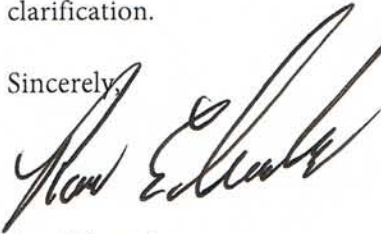
A functional recycling program is paramount. Colleges, campus departments and Facilities Management need to make a concerted effort to coordinate recycling system specifications *before* any additional purchases are made. While the aesthetics of some of these bins are important, we need to establish a continuity of appearance from building to building. It has been noted that many of the more expensive systems have been found to be less functional than our standard bins. Unfortunately, most of these more expensive systems don’t reflect the collection scheme for the campus of the University of Arkansas.

In areas where a more aesthetically pleasing recycling system may be preferred, Facilities Management is designing a campus standard regarding cabinetry to house the “Quad-System.” Such cabinets can be built to complement any office or building. Systems purchased outside of the standard being designed may not

be serviceable using our current resources; therefore the department purchasing such systems may be required to service them.

The University of Arkansas has an award winning recycling program with Razorback Recycling which originally started in 1991. If we are to continue to be successful in the weeks, months, and years to come, we must make a strong concerted effort to standardize how recyclables are collected and oh, by the way, we also need to increase our quantities to world-class levels - - - Go Hogs! Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance with this endeavor, and please feel free to contact me for further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Ron Edwards  
Director, Facility Operations & Maintenance