

Centralized Waste & Recycling Plan

Consistent with [Winthrop University's Sustainability Policy](#), a centralized waste and recycling plan has begun to be implemented. The main goal of the plan is to install centralized waste and recycling stations to divert waste from the landfill. By removing trash cans from classrooms and providing centralized collection stations, individuals will more readily choose to recycle. Personal behaviors will change which will support both campus and state sustainability initiatives.

- **An assessment of Winthrop's waste collection concluded that our process was inefficient due to an inadequate number of recycling collection receptacles.** To address deficiencies identified in this assessment, over \$40,000 in grants from state and private sources have been awarded to the university to purchase centralized waste and recycling stations. Universities around the nation (including Clemson, UNC-Charlotte, and Appalachian State University) have had success with this strategy.
- **The State of South Carolina mandates state agencies, including Winthrop, reduce their waste production and report diversion rates annually.** Diversion rates of recyclables (plastic, paper, glass, aluminum, and metal) at Winthrop were estimated at 2 to 5% last year. The initial stages of this plan have shown an increase to the overall recycling rate by approximately 15% from last year. (See [Winthrop's Sustainability website](#) for additional information about recycling and waste diversion efforts.)

Additional benefits of this plan will be the reduction of overall costs through improved energy efficiency and the improvement of campus safety:

- **New construction has been designed and built to minimize energy use. Open doors and windows decrease efficiency of heating and cooling.** Therefore, trash cans, should never be used to prop open interior or exterior doors; removal of trash cans from classroom will prevent this. All new buildings on campus incorporate advanced heating and cooling technology that significantly reduces the University's overall energy costs. Building codes require outdoor air be mixed with the existing air of interior spaces to improve indoor air quality. This system requires that buildings be uniquely zoned so that spaces requiring additional air from the outside can be mixed efficiently and effectively. (See [Winthrop University's Energy Policy](#) for additional information about Winthrop's effort to increase energy efficiency.)
- The South Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal uses the International Fire Code and local codes during building inspections. A portion of that code states, "**Means of egress shall consist of continuous and unobstructed paths of travel to the exterior of a building.**" This means that trash cans, chairs, etc. should never be used to prop open any interior or exterior door because this could impact someone's ability to exit the building safely. In addition, the recent school shootings have led to recommendations that classroom doors in new buildings to be locked if occupied.

Centralized Waste & Recycling Plan Schedule*

The centralized waste and recycling plan will be completed in phases and the plan schedule is attached. As you see, we hope to complete this process by 2016. To date, these grant funds have provided for additional recycling containers and trash receptacles with improved signage in hallways near classrooms in Owens Hall and West Center. Centralized waste and recycling stations have been added in common outdoor areas as well as public areas of DiGiorgio Campus Center and within four residence halls: Phelps, Richardson, Wofford, and Courtyard.

2012

West Center	Centralize waste/recycling	Complete
Phelps Hall	Re-assign trash rooms as recycling rooms	Complete
Carroll Hall	Centralize waste/recycling	Complete
Main Campus	Outdoor centralize waste/recycling	Complete
Dacus	Recycling receptacles at Info Desk	Complete
Facilities	Centralize waste/recycling	In progress

2013

Owens	Centralize waste/recycling	Complete
Campus Center	Centralize waste/recycling	In-progress
Courtyard	Install centralized recycling	Complete
Wofford	Install recycling collection in trash rooms	Complete
Richardson	Install recycling collection in trash rooms	Complete
Coliseum	Centralize waste/recycling	November 2013
Main Campus	Outdoor centralize waste/recycling	In Progress
Farm	Outdoor centralize waste/recycling	In Progress

2014

Dalton	Centralize waste/recycling
Sims	Centralize waste/recycling
Lee Wicker	Expand recycling collection to each floor
Thomson	Expand recycling collection to each floor
Roddey	Complete feasibility study
Margaret Nance	Complete feasibility study
Johnson	Complete feasibility study
Rutledge	Complete feasibility study
McLaurin	Complete feasibility study

2015

Kinard	Centralize waste/recycling
Thurmond	Centralize waste/recycling
Tillman	Centralize waste/recycling in public areas
Joynes	Centralize waste/recycling in public areas
Byrnes	Centralize waste/recycling in public areas

2016

Withers/WTS/SAC	Centralize waste/recycling
Dinkins	Centralize waste/recycling in public areas
Bancroft	Centralize waste/recycling in public areas
Wofford	Re-assign trash rooms as recycling rooms
Richardson	Re-assign trash rooms as recycling rooms

*This schedule is subject to change.