

From Student Initiative to Pilot Program

Last fall, two student groups approached Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) with a common goal to create a central trash and recycle pilot program. Students from Lead Capstone as well as DEAL joined forces to audit our recycle program throughout campus and developed a proposal aimed to benefit the environment and address the student bodies request for a more consistent recycle program throughout campus. This proposal has been implemented as a pilot program in select academic and administration buildings around campus this past month.

In this, pilot program, numerous trash and recycle stations have been placed throughout the common areas in response to the student's request for consistent recycling locations. The trash and recycle containers have been removed from the classrooms as well as the containers from office areas. The pilot programs ask everyone to dispose of their trash and recycle at centralized locations. As it was implemented many additional advantages became apparent.

- Drake will eliminate well over 50,000 trash liners from entering our landfill each year.
- Students will have a convenient and consistent outlet for their recycle materials.
- Allows the offset of budget funding and labor hours to other campus needs.
- Enhances staff's health and wellbeing by decreasing the number of times they need to repetitively bend, emptying thousands of trash and recycle containers around campus each day.

We will be seeking feedback on the pilot program over the next couple of months. The overall goal is to implement the program campus wide. FPM would like to thank all the members of DEAL and the Lead Capstone group for all their time and energy, helping us make Drake University a better place!

Mitch Wiczorek – Custodial Manager