

Environment 101

By Roy Cubbler
Director of Dining Services



As we get further into the semester, and think about Earth Day and campus environmental goals, I would like to touch base on one of our initiatives, [Project Green Thumb](#). It is our intent/hope that if we can raise awareness in our dining facilities on campus that will reap a higher volume of material pulled from the waste stream and more conscious effort to reduce energy consumption.

To achieve our mutual goals, here is a general list of steps taking place:

- ☺ We have met with the key people involved with this process on the University side.
- ☺ We have audited the numbers and types of collection containers in our dining locations and distributed additional containers around campus for expanded single-stream recycling.
- ☺ Dining Services backs up the roll-out with awareness raising information on our bulletin boards under the Go Green and Project Green Thumb banners.
- ☺ Our staff has worked this past year to identify energy saving products and practices in our dining locations across campus.
- ☺ This year, we began pulling steel and tin cans from the waste stream in our



kitchens and to date we have collected over fifteen thousand, five hundred pounds (over 7.8 tons!) and added to the University's scrap metal recycling efforts!



- ☺ Our company Chartwells has instituted a waste tracking program called **Trim Trax** which is designed to raise our Associates' awareness of waste and reduce the amount of waste in the food preparation process.
- ☺ Under the topic of Sustainability, organic products and healthy eating, we converted to only trans-fat free oils in our cooking, purchase fish according to

the Monterey Bay Aquarium guidelines for sustainable sea foods, source vendors that provide cage free shell eggs for our operations, purchase antibiotic-free pork products, locally grown produce and promote healthy eating through our Balanced Choices program ...to name a few.



Here are some of the creative ideas the Dining Services team here at Towson University have come up with to recognize Earth Day:

1. Energy Savings

- Turn of lights when not in use and use Equipment Turn On/Turn Off schedule
- Glen associates sign and commit to the Glen Marketplace Earth Day Pledge (see links below)

2. Reduce Waste

- "Go Topless" - Encourage customers to forego lids and straws
- Highlight Pura Vida and Green Mountain Fair Trade Coffees
- Recycle Station inside Den with \$.05 Den credit for each plastic-recyclable bottle brought in. – 9am-5pm (Earth Day only)
- Battery Recycle station at the Den
- TRAX will be holding and reusing the boxes our deliveries come in throughout the week and promote the sale of the green bags.



Top Ten Reasons to Recycle

- 1. Recycling Saves Trees.** – Half of the earth’s forests are gone, and up to 95% of the original forest area in the U.S. has been cut down. Using recycled materials reduces the need to chop down, extract, process, refine, and transport natural resources such as timber, crude petroleum and mineral ores. As a result, forests, rivers, wetlands and other places essential to wildlife are reduced.
- 2. Lowers Use of Toxic Chemicals** – Manufacturing of new items requires the use of more toxic chemicals.
- 3. Curbs Global Warming** – Using recycled materials cuts down on the energy used in the manufacturing process dramatically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.
- 4. Recycling Stems the Flow of Water Pollution.** – Making goods from recycled materials generates less water pollution than manufacturing from virgin materials.
- 5. Reduced Need for Landfills.** – toxic pollution from landfills includes cyanide, dioxins, mercury, methane, acids, and leads all leach into groundwater.
- 6. Reduced Need for Incinerators.** – air pollutants produced from incinerators produce contaminated ash, and threaten the health of the community.
- 7. Recycling Creates Jobs and Promotes Development.** – recycling adds value to the economy.
- 8. Profits by Selling Recyclables.** – Cities can make money selling recyclables when markets are good.
- 9. Buying Recycled Products Creates Demand for More Recycled Products.** – This in turn will save even more resources, reduce more pollution, and protect more people’s health!



Some skeptics may ask why are we doing this now, they tried it in the Seventies, in the Nineties and so what?? Well, there’s more than one answer and ALL apply:

First
It’s the right thing to do
 and
Second
It’s the right thing to do!
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Check out the other links on our Website to see our tips on recycling and saving energy for work & home, some interesting facts on recycling and truly unique pictures of your home from astronaut Sunita Williams!

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Our Commitment

The Chartwells management team is committed on taking action to manage energy and natural resources effectively and reduce consumption wherever possible in our Dining Services locations at Towson University