



Georgia Southern University - 2019 RecycleMania Case Study

1. Contact info:

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2. Focus of Case study

Determine recycling habits while trashcans are available in classrooms (4-week period) versus recycling habits while trashcans are not available in classrooms (4-week period)

3. Detailed description of campaign component:

In order to determine indoor recycling habits on the Georgia Southern Statesboro campus, one building was chosen to be used as the sample. A total of 15 rooms were chosen from this building and lasted a total of 8 weeks measuring different recyclables. For the first 4-week period, there was a trash can in the classrooms with recycling receptacles outside of the classrooms, located in main waiting areas. The last 4-week period the trashcans were removed from the classrooms and a sign indicating where the recycling receptables were located was replaced for trashcans. We collected weights for plastic, aluminum, loose paper, cardboard, and shredded paper. After the 8-week study, data indicated that there were higher rates of recycling after trashcans were removed and recycling signs were replaced for the trashcans. Data was measured using a handheld scale that had a hook attached and weighed bags from the sample building from campus. All recycling was weighed every Friday during the 8-week period.

4. Planning steps & timeline to implement:

- First meeting regarding study November 26, 2018
- Study begins 1/7/19
- First weight collection 1/11/19
- Second weight collection 1/18/19
- Third weight collection 1/25/19
- Fourth weight collection 2/01/19
- Take out trashcans and replace with recycling signs 2/03/19
- Fifth weight collection 2/08/19
- Sixth weight collection 2/15/19
- Seventh weight collection 2/22/19

- Eighth weight collection 3/8/19 (end of study)

5. Resources and stakeholders involved

The Center for Sustainability did not have any expenses besides student staff time during this study. However, we partnered with the Department of Facilities whom purchased blue trash bags to indicate the correct building that was being collected.

6. Describe the Results of this campaign component

After this study was conducted, there was a 60.7% increase in recycling of plastic and 40% increase of recycling in paper at the Carroll Building on Georgia Southern Statesboro Campus between the dates of 1/07/19-3/08/19

7. What would you do differently in the future?

Limitations to this study was choosing a building that was not generalizable for Georgia Southern, however, this was preliminary data and it will give Center for Sustainability data for 2020 when this study is conducted again. Hopefully, we can collect more data on this specific data while also expanding to another more representative building on Georgia Southern Campus.

8. What advice would you give to another college that wanted to do a similar effort?

I would recommend that researchers collaborate with other groups/departments on campus, such as: facilities, multicultural affairs, etc. to increase awareness of recycling happening on campus. Also, a more productive building that has larger amount of student activity.

9. Photos and Graphics

Sign used for case study (replaced trashcans):



Social Media Posts:

RecycleMania begins today! Join with other universities nationwide to reduce waste on campus and increase recycling. If you are #CaughtGreenHanded or catch someone else in a green act, snap a photo and email cfs@georgiasouthern.edu to be entered to win prizes. #CfS #RecycleMore

RecycleMania is a nationwide competition between universities to see who recycles the most between Feb 4th and March 31st. Don't miss out on Monday, it's time to beat Georgia State and Appalachian State! #RecycleMania #CfS #Green

Today is the last day of RecycleMania and a chance to enter to our #CaughtGreenHanded competition! Send a photo of yourself or friend participating in a green action and both of you will be entered to win a prize from the Tech Corner. Email cfs@georgiasouthern.edu to enter. #CfS #RecycleMania #CaughtGreenHanded