

Progress Report - Campus Sustainability Fund

March 2023 – Terracycle It

Email:

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Project Manager Name:

who is submitting this project?

Nicole Collins

Project Name:

TerraCycle It

Project Subaccount Number:

22937278

Project Summary Snapshot:

Please copy and paste the "Summary Snapshot" you provided in your project application.

Response

The TerraCycle It! project aims to prevent items that are not recyclable on campus from ending up in the landfill or contaminating current recycling. This pilot project will involve placing materials collection boxes from a company called TerraCycle at the UArizona Libraries (both the Main and Science & Engineering Library), and then having the Libraries ship those boxes back to TerraCycle for proper recycling. In each location, there will be an "Office Supplies" collection box and a "Candy and Snack Wrapper" collection box placed in public lobbies. Thus, UArizona and Tucson community members will be able to access the boxes. Additionally, signage will be displayed via physical fliers and digital monitors within the libraries to help participants sort materials and avoid contamination.

Requested Metrics:

Please report your project's metrics and their most recent number or response in a list format.

Response

As of 2/27/2023 Contamination Levels/Articles of Contamination in each box:

- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor Main Library: ziplock bag
- Office Supplies 2nd floor Main Library: 1 paper, 8 boxes/packing, cardboard box, soda can, panera cup, water bottle
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor Main Library: ziplock bag
- Office Supplies 1st Floor of Main Library: 1 bottle, paper, snack wrapper
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 1st floor of Main Library: none
- Office Supplies 2nd floor of WSEL: 1 mask box and paper

- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor of WSEL: 4 pieces of paper
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 3rd floor of WSEL: no contamination

Weight/Fullness of each box/box type:

- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor of Main Library: a little over half full
- Office Supplies 2nd floor of Main Library: barely full – 1 pen
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor of Main Library: ¼ full
- Office Supplies 1st floor of Main Library: barely full – pen, pencil, pen cap
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 1st floor of Main Library: ¼ full
- Office Supplies of 2nd floor of WSEL: barely full – 10 pens
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 2nd floor of WSEL: ¼ full
- Candy & Snack Wrappers 3rd floor of WSEL: ½ full

Project Accomplishments :

Please describe what aspects of the project have been accomplished. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. Examples of accomplishments could include: Held 4 public meetings totaling 130 attendees; Transitioned 300 square feet of dirt into usable garden space and signed on 14 community garden volunteers. Other examples of accomplishments could include sharing a confirmed schedule of events, the connections/contacts that have been established, etc.

Response

Collection of office supplies and snack wrappers. All of the boxes (8) we have placed have seen use in some capacity. Held a tabling event in which we educated students about Terracycle and gave out candy/snacks if they could answer a trivia question. Estimated 30 students engaged. Established a strong relationship with Hayri (Director of Library Facilities Planning and Management). This has been established through 12 email chains and 6 in person meetings. Connected with the head of library custodial staff in order to explain what Terracycle is and how our check-in process will go. Sent over 8 photos of each box location that was then sent out to the rest of the custodial staff. Removed any and all contamination seen during our weekly check-in of the boxes. This has included over 95 articles of contamination removed from the boxes.

Next Steps:

Response

The next steps for our project include 1) making the lid to place on the Office Supplies boxes in both libraries 2) continuing to check on the boxes weekly 3) possibly tabling on the Mall again to inform people about our initiative 4) ordering the next round of Candy & Snack Wrapper boxes

Challenges Faced:

Please identify and describe any obstacles/roadblocks you or your team have experienced, and detail how you've managed them/ will manage them. Should your project already be completed, please note what challenges you faced and what you would do differently.

Response:

The Office Supplies boxes have received the most contamination, particularly on the second floor of the Main Library, we think this is due to it being the first “trash receptacle” people see, so they throw their trash in there without thinking. The other boxes have seen little to no contamination, especially after we tabled on the Mall to inform people of our initiative. We plan to manage this contamination by adding a lid to cover the Office Supplies box with a sign on it that only office supplies can go in the box. This lid will serve as an extra barrier to prevent non-office supply items from being put in the box.

Project Support:

Can the CSF support you in addressing any roadblocks you've encountered? How else can the CSF support your project?

Response:

We do not need much hands-on support, just the continued promptness in responding to emails that we send regarding the project and providing any advice when necessary.

Photo Upload:

Please upload or provide links (below) to relevant photos.

Response:

* good-boi2.jpg [https://sustainability.arizona.edu/system/files/webform/csf_progress_report/284/good-boi2.jpg] Photo Link
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Photo Link:

Please copy hyperlinks to photos here should you not be able to individually upload photos.

Response:

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Media/Links:

Please include links to any media coverage or events information (e.g. news, social media, websites, interviews, etc.)

Response:

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