

Outdoor Recreation TerraCycle Initiative - Progress Report

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

Since I have taken over the alternative recycling, Terracycle, project (I have been the project manager for one semester - SP 25) the running total (in pounds) of waste that we have successfully collected with our Boxes is 24.4lbs. The total would be higher, however we ran into some unforeseen roadblocks that I will further describe later in this report.

Project Accomplishments

We have successfully educated all of our staff members here in the Outdoor Recreation Department regarding appropriate recycling practices depending on the types of materials in question. The purpose of our Terracycle boxes is to effectively dispose of difficult to recycle materials (like laminated packaging and uncommon varieties of plastic), so through the process of Terracycle education here at Outdoor Recreation our staff have all been able to become more effective advocates for sustainability. The knowledge they've taken away from our Terracycle program is applicable not only within Outdoor Recreation's, but also in their personal lives. The goal of the Terracycle program is to educate, and in that regard we have been very successful.

Next Steps

When I took over the Terracycle project, the goal of the former Project Manager was to expand the program to other departments at the University of Arizona. The most logical next step forward would be to share our alternative recycling practices, in the form of additional Terracycle boxes, with the rest of the South Recreation center (in places like the business office, where a wider variety of recyclable materials are used than in the rest of the gym) and/or the campus libraries (which are some of the most frequented buildings on campus and do not currently have the capacity to effectively recycle all of the materials that are thrown away there on a daily basis.

Ideally, this expansion of the project would happen as soon as possible. If we are able to expand the

Terracycle program, the amount of difficult-to-recycle materials that we could save from being merely thrown away would be exponentially greater than if the program stays within just Outdoor Recreation. It would be great to be able to implement these additional boxes by the beginning of next semester (Fall 25) and/or during next school year so that when students come back from summer vacation we would be able to hit the ground running as far as educating the them and the staff of wherever we are able implement boxes regarding appropriate Terracycle practices.

Challenges Faced

Overall, the Terracycle program has been implemented into the Outdoor Recreation workplace seamlessly. The only major roadblock we've experienced is having two of our boxes taken and disposed of by the custodial staff from the South Recreation Center. This is unfortunate because we have no way of knowing the metrics of that box, and so the data from it is lost. This setback was simply a result of the staff from our recreation counterpart being unaware of our project and its guidelines, which is easily fixable. By doing a more thorough job of notifying the staff from South Recreation concerning our sustainability program. If the Terracycle program expands to other departments within the U of A, then all staff from said departments would be notified to avoid any confusion or the potential loss of boxes.

Project Support

I feel that our partners from the Department of Sustainability have extremely helpful, especially in getting me up to speed after the project's former manager graduated. They have always been more than willing to answer any questions I have; I really have no complaints. As things stand right now, I don't see us needing additional help in our Outdoor Recreation Terracycle program, however, if the project were to expand then we would probably need help in getting the word out to students and staff to ensure that everyone is adequately educated.

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