

Green Impact Universities and Colleges Excellence: Final Report

The Final Report is an opportunity for you to celebrate your hard work and achievements in Green Impact Universities and Colleges Excellence. We hope that a lot of your projects will continue after the submission deadline, but you should aim to summarize your work so far.

Please ensure your Final Report consists of no more than six pages and includes at least three photos.

Name of team: Lafrowda
Project name: Recycling

1.0 Aims and Objectives

To get feedback and information from the Housekeeping team

I started by getting the Housekeepers to record how the residents use the recycling facilities within the residencies where they work. Are the bins being used properly? Does everyone recycle?

I did a walk around of the bin stores. The first thing that I noticed was the confusing signage on the bins. Some of the bins are not labelled correctly and I found some conflicting information with the words "waste" and "recycling" on the front of many. This could be confusing, especially for our international residents.

We carried out a survey of how the bins were being used as we needed to know if the correct waste was going into the correct bins.

We also gave the residents the opportunity to have their say, give some feedback on what we do already and how they feel things would work better.

To get feedback and information from the residents

We conducted a survey within the accommodation, speaking to residents, asking them what they think. I found this most beneficial as it enabled me to have a proper conversation. I received good feedback and I had 4 key questions, but these

Questions led to examples of both good and bad recycling habits. This gave me the opportunity to probe a bit deeper to really find out what people think.

We also simultaneously carried out a survey in both site reception areas for residents' feedback regarding recycling.

It was clear that the residents feel that we offer all their required facilities, however what seems to be lacking is labeling of bins within the residences, better guidance on what can be recycled and where the bin areas are when residents first arrive. We have always just assumed that everyone knows about recycling but what we didn't consider was that the international Residents may come from a country that does not recycle so it would all be new for them. This concern was raised by many of our residents.

Improve labeling and signage of internal and external bin areas to make recycling simpler.

Improve guidance given to residents regarding recycling and the facilities we offer.

Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill



A landfill bin in one of our external bin stores

2.0 Summary

Our findings from our information gathering show that recyclable waste often ends up in the landfill bins. Feedback from the Housekeeping team shows that we need to label the bins within the residences and we need to provide clearer guidance to the residents. Resident feedback says that they need clearer guidance when they first arrive at University on both how and what to recycle and where to find the external bin stores. Some residents pointed out they only had 3 recycling bins in their accommodation. The residents and Housekeepers would like our term start flat talks to be later in the day so that more people will attend, therefore getting more information to more people. The residents and Housekeepers feel some of the international residents need more support and guidance on recycling.

We have been talking to Coastal Waste who committed to review the signage on the front of the external bins.

Labeling of all of the bins within the residencies will be complete before the start of the new student intake.

We will have a help desk in the entrance of each block where a member of our team will be on hand to give information on recycling facilities, what can be recycled and where to find the external bin areas.

We are gradually changing over the old style 3 container recycling bins to the new style which is a set of 4.



Old style recycling bins.



New style recycling bins.

3.0 Project outcomes

What we have done already and what we plan to do has been outlined in other sections of this project.

3.1 Key Performance Indicator Update

The results will not be clear until next term.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Everyone has participated in this project. The Housekeepers and Heavy Duty cleaners have helped gather information by completing surveys in their areas of work.

Coastal Waste are looking at changing the signage on the front of the external bins to make clear which bins should be used.

Opinions and ideas from Housekeepers and residents have played a crucial part in this project.

3.3 On-going work

At the start of the new academic term we will be looking at how we can improve recycling within the studio accommodation. This often gets missed as regular staff access is not permitted in studio accommodation and therefore residents are not involved in the flat talks and we know that the recycling bins within studio accommodation are small and not very practical. We will be looking at ideas to get these residents engaged in recycling to involve and encourage their participation.

We will be looking at ways to engage all residents. We want to see all residents recycling more.

4.0 Project Difficulties & Opportunities

I think the biggest problem we face is engaging and encouraging residents.

Time is the biggest problem I faced, fitting in the additional work the Excellence project brings into our already busy schedule.

5.0 Excellence Legacy

The first set of actions are underway although these will not be completed until the new student intake. The ongoing work will still be moved forward next term by my colleagues and I. It is crucial that we continue with this work and we need to keep driving the changes to have a positive effect on our environmental impact as a site. I see this as at least a two year project.

6.0 Special Awards Entries

List the Green Impact Special Awards that you have nominated your Excellence project/or other team projects for.