

CUYAMACA COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

RECYCLING AWARENESS AT CUYAMACA COLLEGE

With the passing of AB75, which made it mandatory to divert at least 50% of our trash from the landfill, Cuyamaca College found itself in the position of having to “hit the ground running” when it came to recycling. Prior to 2000, our recycling efforts consisted of white paper and cardboard. With AB75, we realized that we needed to become enlightened, and quickly.

The first action taken was to set up a Waste Management Ad Hoc Committee, a committee made up of staff, faculty, students and representatives from the business community. We invited participation by our local recycling hauler and the County Recycling Specialist. Through the efforts of this committee, along with a grant for recycling bins made possible by the County, we were on our way.

After researching the benefits of “single streaming”, we met with our recycling hauler and a deal was put into place that granted us free pick up of all our recyclables...all we had to do was give them our cardboard. Because “single streaming” consists of mixing all recyclables except cardboard into the same bins, this made recycling that much easier.

With help from a grant through the County of San Diego, recycling bins were purchased at no cost to us. We ordered 2-3 different styles and placed them strategically on campus. Some were used specifically for special events. The committee decided that the clubs on campus could reap the benefits of recycling so they could sign up for the month and take the recycling directly to the recycler, and keep the money. This gave them an incentive to recycle, as well as dealing with the issue of taking items to the recycler.

Again, with the assistance of the hauler and the County, we arranged a college hour where students could stop and see what recycling programs we had going on campus, and how they could participate.



Accomplishments 05-06

- *College Hour – held in October '05*
- *Staff Development Workshop—January '05*
- *Hot Spots - recycling booth*
- *Single stream recycling - in place since March*
- *Income from cardboard - no cost for recycling pick-ups from Allan Co.*
- *Recycle bins placed strategically on campus*
- *Hired 2 student workers*
- *Clubs now earn \$50-\$200 a month from recycling*
- *3 Scholarships were given; 2 for \$60 and 1 for \$100*
- *Involved 2 Enviro Tech students in Work Experience*
- *Reduced regular trash pick up and saves about \$10,000/year*



PLEDGE TO RECYCLE

“Acknowledging the positive impact each individual can make, I choose to create a better future for my college, community and family by recycling.” Recycling saves energy, reduces pollution, creates local jobs, returns raw materials to our economy and reduces the need for new landfills.

Cuyamaca College recognizes the importance of recycling in the campus’ integrated waste management program. To further the goal of waste reduction and recovery of our recyclable resources, the recycling program is expanding across campus.

REDUCE

I pledge to reduce the amount of waste that I produce by purchasing products with less packaging.



REUSE

I pledge to reuse as much as possible by using both sides of paper and reusing plastic bags or using a “bag for life” while shopping.



RECYCLE

I pledge to recycle my paper, cardboard, bottles, and cans. Since purchasing items made for recycled materials supports recycling, I pledge to buy products made with recycled content”.

With our new recycling efforts beginning to pay off, our annual report to the State showed that we were able to divert 88% from the landfill!

More recycling efforts will be made in the future as we learn what and how other items can be recycled as well. We are now researching the universal and e-waste law which mandates this waste must not go into the landfill.

Join Cuyamaca College in our efforts to achieve even greater strides in recycling success.

