



# EcoNotes



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Claremont McKenna College

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## Recycling at CMC

Recycling is a major part of life at Claremont McKenna College. You can't go into a dorm, administrative building, or dining hall without finding a blue recycling bin and a description of recyclable materials.

This issue of EcoNotes focuses on the many forms recycling takes: trash recycling, composting & mulching, food waste reduction, etc. It also highlights new programs aimed at making the campus more efficient--less wasteful. As you read it, please consider the ways you can reduce your waste and also continue thinking of ways that the administration can push forward in its efforts to cut back what it sends to local landfills. Then, think beyond that to what your community can do.

Finally, please share this newsletter with a friend. (We don't make many copies because we don't want to contribute to the problems we aim to solve.) And don't forget, EcoNotes can also be found on the Web at: [www.mckenna.edu/news/index.htm](http://www.mckenna.edu/news/index.htm).

## CMC Recycling Survey Results

Results of the October Recycling Survey showed that students in four residence halls recycled 50% or more of their total building waste. The aggregate recycling percentage for all residence halls was 41%, which was the highest on record!

### Results:

Benson Hall	57%
Green Hall	55%

Marks Hall	55%
Appleby Hall	50%

Occupants of eight academic/administrative buildings recycled 50% or more of their total building waste. Unfortunately, the aggregate recycling percentage for the buildings fell to an all-time low of 38%.

### Results

Faculty Support W.	88%
Bauer North	57%
Pitzer Hall	54%
Heggblade Center	53%
Adams Hall	52%
Story House	55%
Roberts North	50%
Roberts South	50%

"regular" dumpster it has to pick up. In contrast, recycling bins are free of charge. Secondly, as part of the Claremont community, CMC is required by law to reduce the amount of waste sent to local landfills. Even if we weren't motivated by the environmental benefits of recycling, in the future we may face penalties if we don't make an earnest effort to recycle. Finally, it obviously benefits CMC and everyone if we act responsibly and think environmentally. There is no benefit at all in behaving recklessly with our ecosystem.

In everything you do, think of the mark it may leave behind. Choose products with less packaging; reuse plastic grocery bags and/or return them to the market; make a tire swing for a little friend instead of dumping your old treads. It can fun!

Recycling is good for CMC on many levels. First of all, it is economical. The city charges \$321 per month for every

*EcoNotes* is published by the Environmental Concerns Committee, a group comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Any submissions or comments can be directed to the administrative services department. We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

## What Difference Does It Make?

So, you've sorted your waste into "regular trash" and "recyclable" and put it in the appropriate bins. Then what happens? You see a building attendant dump your recyclables into the regular trash. Aaaagh! What's the point, right?

It's important for you to know that every building attendant is trained to use the recycling bins. They know how important waste reduction is to CMC. However, they are also trained to dump contaminated recyclables into the regular trash because they do not have the time and should not be required to separate trash. Contaminated trash consists of recyclables that are covered with food (pizza boxes, gum on paper, etc.) and/or dirt and grease (paper towels, napkins, etc.).

Try not to be discouraged if you see recyclables mixed with trash. Instead, remember that--next time--you can double-check your waste and avoid the same situation.

If you know for a fact that your recyclables have been combined with trash for no valid reason, please report it to Kathy Lowe in administrative services (extension 71833).

## Claremont Recycles

Claremont McKenna College is able to recycle with little effort, in part, because the City of Claremont provides access to recycling facilities at no charge. The city picks up our recycled materials and ships it to Spadra Landfill. From there, it is transported to a processing plant in Orange County. This city-wide program is unique to Claremont and we are fortunate to be able to take advantage of it.

The city also offers a bulk-item pickup program twice a year. One of these pickups is scheduled around the end of the school year to make it easier for college students who are leaving town for the summer. Students can leave their sofas, refrigerators, etc. at designated drop-off points where they are picked up and taken to a city yard. From there they are sold and all proceeds are donated to nonprofit organizations.

If you would like more information about The City of Claremont and its recycling programs, you can contact Cynthia Vant Hul at (909) 399-5431.

## Student Activity Update

The Eco Club is continuing its efforts to reduce waste throughout The Claremont Colleges. They are about to begin a campaign to get recycled paper and/or paper from plantation forest trees used in the copy machines and printers around campus. You can support this effort right now by purchasing only recycled paper and avoiding paper that comes from old growth forests.

The Eco Club is also beginning preparations for an Earth Day celebration. Plans for the week of April 17th include environmental awareness programs, a special event, and a call for activism. They are forming a committee, so if you would like to be a part of the planning, contact Billy Grayson at extension 77245.