



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Facilities Management | Building Services | Waste Reduction & Recycling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Auburn University Announces Recycling Results

AUBURN UNIVERSITY – The Waste Reduction and Recycling Department (WRRD) has released the results of Auburn University’s 2013 recycling activities.

Last year, the university recycled 326 tons of paper, 218 tons of cardboard, and 68 tons of containers (plastic bottles, aluminum cans, steel cans). Auburn also recycled scrap metal, toner and ink jet cartridges, electronics, and construction and demolition debris (like gypsum, concrete, and wood from buildings).

“Recycling provides the university with both environmental and economic benefits,” said Donny Addison, Waste Reduction and Recycling Department manager.

Paper and cardboard recycling efforts alone saved 5,556 barrels of oil, enough to fill an average-sized automobile’s gas tank 7,038 times. Paper recycling also saved 2,282,980 gallons of water, enough for 45,660 10-minute showers. Container recycling saved 455,827 kWh of electricity, enough to power an average home for 15,614 days. Last year’s university recycling programs diverted 27 percent of campus-generated material from local landfills.

Not only does recycling reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserve natural resources, and save energy, but it also has economic impacts. The revenue generated from the sale of paper, cardboard, and containers, coupled with the avoided disposal cost, totaled \$54,000.

In addition, WRRD received an \$84,500 grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). Last year’s recycling activities benefited the university by nearly \$140,000.

According to a Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC) study, Alabama is home to more than 26 manufacturers that rely on recycled content feedstock. These companies employ more than 10,700 Alabama citizens directly, and generate more than \$6.6 billion in yearly sales.

Auburn University’s recycling program was established in 2005. WRRD manages all waste contracts on campus and provides recycling services to the university community.

More information about Auburn University’s recycling program is available online at auburn.edu/recycle. More information about the Southeast Recycling Development Council is available online at serdc.org.

(Written by Joan Hicken.)

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