



## **Radford University Annual Recycling Report – FY2012**

**27%** Radford University continues to strive in waste reduction, reusing products, and maximizing all areas of recycling. This fiscal year, RU's overall recycling rate equaled **27.19** percent. The university's three main areas of recycling resulted in container recycling at **36** tons (137% increase), mixed paper recycling at **80** tons (14% increase), and corrugated cardboard at **195** tons (16% increase). Overall recyclables in all categories totaled **549** tons. Solid waste equaled **1,472** tons. [Details.](#)

### **This Year's Highlights**

#### **Award Winning Program**

RU's recycling program garnered the "**2012 Recycling Award for Outstanding University**" given by the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA). This award was given to RU's for its previous year's efforts including achieving its highest recycling rate ever (51%) including recycling large amounts of construction materials and scrap metals.

#### **Plastics Recycling**

RU expanded recycling capabilities from plastics resin codes 1 and 2 to plastics 1 thru 7. This wider range of plastics now provides more recycling opportunities for campus. This additional recycling stream will divert more recyclables from the local landfill and increase campus recycling rates.

#### **RecycleMania 2012**

RU competed in the national recycling competition called "RecycleMania" for the fourth consecutive year. This year RU achieved a cumulative competition recycling rate of 11.51%, ranking 251 of 605 schools nationwide. This competition serves as a catalyst to refresh existing recycling habits and introduce recycling to new participants. [Details.](#)

#### **Y-TOSS**

RU teamed up with the local YMCA again this year to collect usable goods during student move-out. YTOSS? is a program designed to collect unwanted items from students when they vacate their residence hall and keep items from being sent to the local landfill. Many of these items may be purchased by members of the local community and returning RU students. This year's program yielded a total of 235 donated items, with a total weight of 3.7 tons. [Details.](#)

## **Office Supply Swap**

On April 19th, Radford University recognized the 42nd anniversary celebration of Earth Day which included hosting an office supply swap. Campus offices in need of supplies or who needed to discard excess supplies were given this opportunity. The recycling department set up several supply swap tables to support this cause. By reusing items, many items were diverted from the local landfill. This effort also made a positive impact on departmental budgets by offsetting the purchase of new items.

## **Fall 2012 New Student Move-In**

Cardboard drop sites were designated outside all residence halls; each site was identified with a banner type sign. Cardboard totaling 7.93 tons for just that weekend was hauled to a cardboard compactor for recycling and transport.

## **E-Waste**

RU continues to partner with Apple Computer in electronic waste (e-waste) recycling. Once each year, the Apple Computer Company recycles e-waste items from colleges and universities nationwide. This year RU recycled a total of 42 pallets of e-waste totaling 13 tons.

## **Waste Audit**

The year RU conducted its first large scale waste audit ever. The purpose was to show hard data on what is typically being recycled and how much is discarded in the solid waste stream that should have otherwise been recycled. The Governors Quad was chosen for the audit and student volunteers and Residence Life staff from that area assisted by separating recyclables from trash and weighing the results. Of the four residence halls in the Quad, Floyd Hall took top honors by discarding the lowest percentage of recyclables in the waste stream which equaled 17.4 percent, while the other halls produced higher percentages. The results were eye opening and educational to the students who participated.

## **Miscellaneous Events**

Other recycling events and opportunities this year included America Recycles Day (ARD), The "Bonnie Days of April", Highlanderfest, Club Fair Day, Sustainability Movies Series, and numerous sporting events at the Dedmon Center and Cupp Stadium.

## **Closing Remarks**

Radford University closes out yet another successful year in recycling. RU continues to evaluate operations and recently entered into a contractual agreement with a local vendor to bring cardboard, wood debris, and scrap metals to various markets. Going forward, RU plans to continue to identify and exploit new initiatives and innovations in recycling. Our ultimate goal is to continue to enhance and maintain sustainable practices and make a positive impact on global efforts to green our planet. Be sure to sure to check out the [RU Recycling website](#) and [RU SustainABILITY](#) Facebook pages for more information too!