

University of Southern
Maine
Waste Minimization Policy

This policy addresses USM's commitment under the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

POLICY

University of Southern Maine is committed to reducing waste and increasing efficiency in all areas of operations. This policy addresses solid waste generated on the Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston-Auburn campuses as well as all University-occupied off-campus buildings, including rentals. The University pursues waste reduction actions that address the following goals:

- Reduce overall waste across all three campuses: Portland, Gorham and Lewiston
- Increase the amount and quality of single stream recyclables collected on all three campuses
- Discover new opportunities for waste reduction including environmentally preferred purchasing
- Develop innovative handling methods and new outlets for materials
- Build community, engagement, and awareness around issues related to waste

Toward these ends the following actions will be taken:

1. The University of Southern Maine will participate in the annual national RecycleMania competition in at least the Waste Minimization category and any other additional categories as deemed appropriate by staff.
2. USM will maintain an effective waste minimization program that includes environmentally preferred purchasing, recycling and composting of landscaping and food service wastes. The program goal is to minimize waste generation whenever possible and recycle or otherwise divert from incineration or landfill a minimum of 50% of the total waste stream by weight.
3. USM will continually review and improve placement and type of all campus waste and resource-recovery containers.
4. USM will incorporate materials management information, including information on environmentally preferred purchasing, into new employee and new student orientation programs.

PROCEDURE

In all public spaces where waste collection containers are available, containers appropriately designated for collection of recyclables and waste will be placed immediately adjacent to one another in stations. "Stand alone" waste collection containers in public spaces, with the exception of rest rooms, are not permitted under this policy. To enable members of the university community to make better resource recovery choices, the university seeks to offer appropriate choices at all public collection points. It is the goal of this policy to create a uniform resource-recovery collection system at the university including in Auxiliary Units of the University.

Facilities Management should be consulted before collection sites are added, moved, or removed. Facilities Management is tasked with periodically reviewing collection container function, design, labels, and locations and making changes as circumstances warrant. New buildings and renovations

will include appropriately located and designed built-in collection facilities, or adequate space for resource-recovery collection as determined by Facilities Management. This policy applies to collection sites anywhere on university property. Due to esthetic concerns, pest management issues, higher management costs and damage due to exposure to weather, plows, and other vehicles, it is the goal of this policy to reduce to an absolute minimum the number of collection sites outside of university buildings.

In staff, administration and faculty areas appropriately color-coded collection containers (currently blue for all recyclable materials including returnable bottles and cans and brown or grey for trash) will be provided in pairs for recyclables and trash. In shared office areas, it is the goal of this policy to seek to have users of the space share collection sites when reasonable. It is the goal of this policy to reduce to the minimum the number of, and size of, collection containers needed to adequately serve all spaces. Recycling and Trash containers will not routinely be provided in typical classroom spaces.

HISTORY: Submitted by the President's Council on Climate Neutrality, 11/14/08. Updated by the President's Council on Climate Neutrality, 11/13/12.