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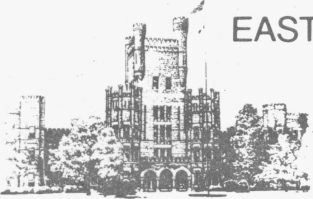
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN STRESSING RECYCLING

CHARLESTON, IL--Recycling is "alive and well" at Eastern Illinois University, according to Victor Robeson, Chairman of the University's Recycling Committee.

At a recent meeting, Robeson, Director of Eastern's Physical Plant, told members of the Recycling Committee that a four-month test program, involving the collection of recyclable office paper by volunteers at eleven campus sites, has yielded more than 28,000 pounds, or an average of three and a half tons each month.

The Committee, the University's official recycling and waste management advisory group, includes a cross-section of the University community, from Dr. Kathryn Bulver, a representative of the Faculty Senate, to Gary Hanebrink, Superintendent of Building Maintenance.

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Its charge is to develop proposals for campus-wide coordinated waste management and recycling activities to help Eastern become a role model for conservation and protection of the Earth's resources.

Robeson said that although Eastern's initial request for support from the Illinois Recycling Grants Program had been rejected, the grant application will be resubmitted. In the meantime, Eastern will share some of its existing resources with the recycling efforts, until state help is approved.

The University has contacted Armstrong Center of Mattoon to process the University's paper waste stream. Armstrong Center, in School District Community Unit 2, teaches work skills to trainable, mentally handicapped students and individuals. Armstrong Center has based a majority of their learning experiences around recycling. The Center has recycled cardboard, paper, glass, and aluminum for the past 20 years. Through the cooperation between two education facilities, it has been agreed Armstrong students would sort the ROP as an age appropriate learning experience.

Although the current program only involves recyclable office paper, it will be expanded to include other items as soon as resources and markets are available. For example, Robeson points out, newspapers are not currently being collected in large quantities, simply because there is currently no productive market available to the University. The collection of aluminum cans and glass is being reviewed for possible inclusion at a later date.

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EASTERN STRESSING RECYCLING

"We fully believe in the importance of recycling to the future of our country and the Earth itself," said Robeson, "but we will not 'collect for the sake of collecting.' We must have a realistic redistribution system and economically feasible markets before additional products will be included."