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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EASTERN EXPANDS RECYCLING

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University has expanded its four-month pilot recycling program into a campus-wide program involving students, faculty and staff, according to Gary Hanebrink, Eastern's recycling project coordinator.

Hanebrink, superintendent of maintenance, said the pilot program, involving the collection of recyclable office paper at 11 campus sites, has been expanded to include cardboard collection at the six campus food service locations.

Additional University areas, including the Business Office, Foreign Language Department and Lumpkin Hall Computer Lab, have also begun participating in the recycling program.

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"We plan to expand the program this summer to include Buzzard Building. By fall, we hope to have many more departments involved," Hanebrink said.

Eastern's program consists of the "desktop" recycling concept where employees deposit their recyclable office paper into cardboard desktop receptacles provided by the Physical Plant. Each desktop container is affixed with a label listing what items are acceptable and not acceptable.

Departments may use their own cardboard boxes if they wish and are encouraged to do so, according to Hanebrink.

Once the desktop containers are full, the recyclable office paper is emptied into a floor receptacle where it is collected by building service workers and delivered to the Central Receiving area. It is then transported to Mattoon where it is sorted, upgraded and baled by students at the Armstrong Center.

Some types of paper that are being collected include stationary and letterhead, computer printout, copier and typing, ditto and mimeo, carbonless (NCR) forms and adding machine tape.

Hanebrink said department volunteers are assisting in the coordination of the program and several firms in Illinois and Missouri are interested in purchasing Eastern's recyclable materials.

Money generated from the sale of these recyclable materials will continue to fund Eastern's recycling program, which is being operated on existing University resources. Eastern is seeking state funding from the Illinois Recycling Grants Program.

Although the current program only involves recyclable office paper and cardboard, it will be expanded later to include other items, such as aluminum cans, glass and plastics as resources and markets become available.

"I believe we are right on track with our recycling program," Hanebrink said. Fourteen tons of recyclable office paper have been collected to date and as many as 17 small trees are required to make one ton of paper.