

**PREPARED BY CORE 175: EARHT AND OUR PLACE ON IT  
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**UI MOSCOW CAMPUS  
SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

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## Material Resources and Waste Disposal

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# Material Resources and Waste



## COSTS

For many, becoming more sustainable is often seen as an expense, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Reducing waste and increasing recycling actually saves money. Therefore, becoming sustainable is not only environmentally friendly but also fiscally wise.

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### How Are We Doing?

The total costs of waste for the fiscal year 2010 were \$297,891.39. However, with increased recycling this number may be reduced. If the University of Idaho reduces the amount of garbage going into the dumpsters and increases the amount being recycled then the dumpsters won't have to be emptied as often and will save on costs. In fact, the recycling already saves the university approximately \$28,500 per fiscal year.



### Did You Know?

For the year 2009-2010, the University of Idaho earned \$22,000 just for recycling.

# Material Resources and Waste



## E-WASTE

E-waste is anything that involves electronics. This can include light bulbs, computers, batteries, cell phones, etcetera. With technology growing fast many devices become outdated quickly. Therefore our electronics are better off being recycled than in a landfill not only because it's better for the environment but it is also cost effective. The university actually receives money for recycling e-waste.

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### How Are We Doing?

The recycling of e-waste is a new program that the University of Idaho has started. For the fiscal year 2010, 15,921 pounds of E-waste have been diverted from waste to recycling bins. The program is becoming more efficient because the University of Idaho of Idaho has already recycled 15,600 pounds of e-waste.



### Did You Know?

The University of Idaho recycles 1.4 tons of light bulbs per year.

# Material Resources and Waste



## RECYCLING

The University of Idaho has many different receptacles across campus to help increase recycling efforts. Almost anything can be recycled, such as old newspapers, cans, plastics, glass, wood, metal, electronics, etc. The going green trend is becoming popular and the university is incorporating it all throughout campus but we are still behind the rest of the country.

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### How Are We Doing?

The average recycling rate in the U.S. is about 33 % but the University of Idaho's recycling rate is only 13%. Despite the low overall recycling rate, in recent years there have been a lot of efforts to increase recycling. New programs such as the Tailgate recycling program, has produced 4 tons of recycled waste in a fiscal year. The University of Idaho recycles about 1,600 tons of solid waste per year. The main materials recycled by the University of Idaho are paper products, plastics, and food (composting).

In addition to recycling plastics and paper, the university also utilizes wood waste from sawmills from the surrounding area to heat the campus. The steam plant is both efficient and cost efficient saving the university money.



### Did You Know?

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb burning for 11 hours.

# Material Resources and Waste



## COMPOSTING

Composting involves breaking down wastes such as uneaten food products, plants, and other organics in order to fertilize the soil. Composting is a good way of turning what would be waste into something useful. Composting is a critical aspect of organic farming operations today.

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### How Are We Doing?

From 2009-2010 the University of Idaho composted 37 tons of food, 100 pounds of manure, and 20,000 pounds of leaves. Efforts to compost food are seen mainly in the commons where they have separate receptacles for recycling, composting, and landfill. Behind the scenes of Bob's, they have special food sorters sorting out what can and cannot be composted.



### Did You Know?

The University of Idaho has composted 12 steer carcasses this past year.

# Material Resources and Waste



ENTER "SYSTEM" NOTES

Staff interviewed in the assessment of this system (bold indicates primary contributors):

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CAMPUS ROLE</b>	<b>INDICATOR(S) OF RELEVANCE</b>
Saul, Darrin	Sustainability Director	Composting, recycling, costs, e-waste
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