
Metrics

It is impossible to judge success in environmental sustainability without evaluation or measurement. Metrics play two important roles. The first provides an understanding of targets that helps clarify expectations and communicates those expectations to others. The second role is to provide a way to measure and evaluate

established a recycling rate goal of 85 percent for all waste materials generated in construction and renovation projects.

Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach

Education and outreach initiatives are only as successful as the awareness of them in the larger community. Students, staff, visitors, volunteers, and local residents are all good candidates for outreach activities related to sustainable development strategies. All parties could be engaged and made aware of sustainability and how their behavior affects it as they

Boston College's electrical portfolio included 27 percent renewable energy by January 2007. Prior year's portfolios were

Water

Several measures have been undertaken to reduce water consumption.

The University has created a pilot project to sub-meter electricity in all residence halls.

Savings have been realized from a utilities rebate program through installing low-flow plumbing fixtures in Edmonds and 66 Commonwealth Avenue. Retrofitted autoclaves were installed in Merkert Center, saving approximately 0.4 million gallons per year.

Installation of waterless systems for Merkert Center's vacuum pumps and air compressors is in progress. Expected savings are approximately 1 million gallons per year.

Water saving and energy efficient laundry equipment has been installed in 26 residence halls.

Recycling and Reuse

Boston College has undertaken a number of measures to reduce waste through recycling and reuse:

Boston College has increased the number of outdoor recycling containers across campus

Battery and ink cartridge recycling bins are located in 25 locations in residence halls and at five central locations throughout the campus.

Since 2003, the University added co-mingled can and glass containers in classrooms and administration buildings and has increased the number of dumpsters for cardboard, carpets, wood, metal and yard waste. Last year 55 percent of waste was recycled.

Housekeeping has supplied 12 recycling bins to the Bureau of Conferences for use at events.

Residence room recycling debuted in fall 2007 in all freshmen areas.

Through the Save That Stuff recycling program, the University has saved the following from 2005 through 2007:

- 308 tons cardboard
- 8 tons wood
- 6 tons metal
- 163 tons yard waste
- 146 tons mixed paper
- 41 tons commingled

Through the Institution Recycling Network (IRN), the University recycled the following amounts in Fiscal Years 2005 through 2007

- 62.1 tons mixed electronics
- 27.9 tons wood
- 26.4 tons mixed metal

15.2 tons mixed metal appliances

85.6 tons surplus property

5.8 tons universal waste (batteries and fluorescent lamps)

As part of the computer upgrade program, used office computers are taken back by Dell in a one-for-one exchange.

As part of Clean Sweep, at the end of the school year volunteers collect reusable furnishings and goods left behind by students during move-out. These goods are donated to local charities.

Several automotive parts are recycled including, car batteries (CarQuest); tires (Direct Tire), parts cleaning solution (approximately 1,800 pounds per year), and waste oil (approximately 1,600 pounds per year).

Capital Projects

During construction of new facilities or renovation of existing facilities, there are opportunities to recycle materials. Boston College has established a recycling rate goal of 85 percent for construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated in construction and renovation projects. To date over 95 percent of C&D waste has been recycled. General Contractors oversee recycling operations and provide a report of recycled materials to project managers.

The design of new buildings incorporates ways to improve management of stormwater. For new construction, the most efficient mechanical equipment and utilities are selected. In the renovation of residence halls, fixtures, windows, and insulation meet standards for resource conservation.

Environmental Health and Safety

The University employs several measures to safely manage and reduce hazardous wastes:

The University recycles waste oil, batteries, and antifreeze.

Thirty percent of lab solvents waste is re-used to fuel incinerators.

There has been a major reduction in radioactive waste since 1998 through improvements in management of the approval process and how wastes are generated and stored. Radioactive waste is segregated from regular trash.

All scintillation fluids currently used by the University are biodegradable, non-flammable and non-toxic.

All initial waste training and most refresher training includes a segment on chemical purchase and waste minimization.

Auxiliary Services

The following measures are used by Boston College to minimize the impact of transportation on resources:

BC has attained compliance with Massachusetts Ride Share regulations by increasing the number of beds on campus, thus reducing the number of daily ride-alone trips by students to and from campus.

BC operates a free shuttle bus between the Chestnut Hill Campus, Newton Campus, and into Brighton, where it serves two Green Line stops at Cleveland Circle on the C Branch and at the Reservoir stop on the D Branch. The Green Line B Branch ends at the northeast corner of the Chestnut Hill Campus and just west of the Brighton Campus.

Boston College has purchased one alternative fueled vehicle.

BC provides a parking space for Zipcar.

Procurement Services

Purchasing

The department's most recent contract for lamps specifies lower mercury content.

Certain vendors are required to take their waste, including pallets and packaging.

Boston College's main office supply vendor offers "earth friendly" products which departments can purchase.