

GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

4 September 2017

Greetings! If you are a new student, staff or faculty member, welcome to Gustavus--we are glad you are here. Likewise, a hearty welcome to all employees and students who are returning from a summer away, as well as those who spent a summer on campus working and learning.

During this fall semester fall, the President's Environmental Sustainability Council (PESC) will begin its work. The PESC is charged with shaping and organizing our environmental sustainability efforts, collaborating with the whole campus community to improve and expand our care for the environment. The formation of the PESC was announced in early June, and you will hear more about it in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, an important new environmental effort has already begun. You may have noticed the new recycling, trash, and Gustiware bins in the campus center. Similar bins have been placed in first year student residences, and we hope to spread this new, more consistent container system across campus over the next couple of years.

As a part of this change, our waste and recycling systems are changing, too. Most importantly, we are moving this fall to a single sort recycling system across campus. That means that recyclable paper products (office paper including junk mail), metal products (aluminum and tin cans) and glass and plastic (bottles and containers) will all be collected in the single container marked "Recycle" or "Commingling". Additionally, there will be specific containers for collecting Gustiware to-go containers as well as washable utensils and serving containers from the Dining Service. Corrugated cardboard items can still be placed beside the containers for collection, or better yet, take them to the main collection point in your building.

A simple guide to the new system accompanies this document. The same information can also be found at <http://bit.ly/2gsOrmO>. For now, we only have a few compost containers (for food waste and compostable to-go containers) in the Campus Center, but instructions for them are included in the guide. There are still compost containers by the Courtyard Cafe, too. The recycling and waste system will be the same all over campus, even if we don't yet have matching container systems, so you will need to pay attention to the labels.

Through this simpler single sort recycling approach, along with a more consistent and visually attractive container system, we hope to improve our waste management and recycling system. But making this change is going to take some extra work as we begin, so we need your help—you are the key to making this work:

- We will probably make some mistakes, and some things won't go as planned. Please be patient with the Facilities Management staff who work hard to make our recycling and trash collection efforts successful.
- Please make an effort to help our custodial and grounds staff--take a few extra seconds to make sure that whatever you are tossing gets in the right container. If you aren't sure, find a custodian to clarify what you should do, ask your work supervisor or Collegiate Fellow, or, if all else fails, contact me.
- If you see something on the floor near a container pick it up and put in the right place.

While this effort will help us be better environmental stewards, it will also make us a better community. Your efforts will show your respect for the hardworking people who take care of our buildings. They make it possible for all of us to work and learn in this great place. Please say "thank you" by making this part of their job easier.

Grateful for your support.



James Dontje

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT