Cutler In-Apartment Recycling Infrastructure

Amount Requested:
$3,600

Proposal Authors:
Terilyn Lawson and Matthew Helt

Contact Information:
Terilyn Lawson
tklawson@alaska.edu
907-223-9103

Matthew Helt
mehelt@alaska.edu
434-989-4447

Department:
Cutler Apartment Complex, Residence Life

Sustainability Theme:
Waste Management & Social Sustainability

Project Summary:
The purpose of this project is to provide the residents of the Cutler Apartment Complex with recycling infrastructure to meet their needs. With these funds we will provide each apartment with recycling boxes to complement the new outdoor recycling dumpster provided by Facilities Services.

Project Description:
The goal of this project is to divert glass, metal, paper and plastic from the Fairbanks North Star Borough Landfill by increasing recycling at the Cutler Apartment Complex. Cutler houses 230 upper-class students in 60 apartments. A majority of these residents live independent of the meal plan offered on campus and generate a substantial quantity of recyclables that are currently funneled into the University’s trash disposal system.
The $3,000 requested for this project will purchase two Rubbermaid Commercial Products recycling boxes for each apartment. These boxes will enable residents to sort recyclables from trash allowing for easy and convenient transport to the new recycling dumpsters located in the Cutler parking lot.

To ensure the longevity of the Cutler recycling program we are working with Residence Life to include the boxes on the room condition reports signed by residents during move in. Assigning responsibility to the residents will increase the lifespan of the individual boxes and provide future residents with recycling options without additional costs.

In addition, we will be continuously promoting the new recycling facilities and encouraging each resident to recycle instead of disposing of their soda cans, milk jugs, newspapers, and beverage bottles into the trash.

**Project Value:**

We are striving to reduce the amount of waste generated by the students who reside in the Cutler Apartment Complex and raise awareness of the recycling services available to UAF students. Providing these residents with the necessary infrastructure (recycling boxes and recycling dumpsters) is one of the most efficient ways to increase recycling and decrease the amount of waste generated by Cutler residents, and increase the sustainability of the University.

The 220 residents of the Cutler Apartment Complex have all directly contributed to the SIREN program. Providing residents with recycling boxes and outdoor recycling dumpsters assures funds are directly benefiting these students but also will serve as a model for other campus housing areas.

**Technical Advisor and Collaborators:**

John Nalposki (Advisor)
Resident Director of Cutler Apartment Complex
jsnalposki@alaska.edu
907-455-3836

John is the Resident Director of the Cutler Apartment Complex. He will be overseeing the distribution of recycling boxes to each apartment and help ensure the longevity of the recycling program allowing for future Cutler residents to have accessibility to convenient recycling.

Brandon Hoover (Collaborator)
Office of Sustainability
bshoover@alaska.edu
810-265-0334

Brandon currently picks up the recyclables from the Cutler Apartment Complex and has worked with Facilities Services to create and install the outdoor recycling pad at Cutler. He is also one of...
our main contacts to the Office of Sustainability and helps answer any questions on the viability of recycling that arise.

Project Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Persons Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late Oct/early Nov 2011</td>
<td>Order recycling boxes</td>
<td>Helt &amp; Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Oct/early Nov 2011</td>
<td>Publicize boxes &amp; recycling dumpster availability</td>
<td>Helt &amp; Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Nov/early Dec 2011</td>
<td>Distribute boxes with Room Condition Reports</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Nov/early Dec 2011</td>
<td>Provide information on how to recycle at Cutler</td>
<td>Helt &amp; Lawson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Dec 2011</td>
<td>Recycling education bulletin boards</td>
<td>Helt &amp; Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Jan 2012</td>
<td>Reminder to residents of recycling at Cutler</td>
<td>Helt &amp; Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid May 2012</td>
<td>Housing check out and recycling box evaluation</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
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Our intention is for recycling to be a lasting fixture at the Cutler Apartment Complex. While we are a Cutler resident and resident advisor for only one year, our intentions are to put into place a system that will be here for residents for many years to come. Cutler staff will store the recycling boxes in a locked facility over the summer break and will redistribute the boxes the following fall during move in.

Budget Details and Justification:

We plan to purchase 120 Rubbermaid Commercial Recycling Boxes (Rubbermaid model # 5714-73) at a total cost $3600. We selected the commercial grade boxes because they are designed not to rust, chip, dent, or peel and have smooth surfaces, which prevent the build-up of liquids and debris and facilitate cleaning. In a northern climate and college setting it is necessary to have a durable box with a long life span. Two boxes for each apartment provides for separation of paper from plastic, cans, glass and ample recycling storage space for apartments that range from 3 to 7 people.

We estimate that the total cost for the boxes including shipping to Fairbanks will be $30 per box, for a total of $3600. One of the difficulties of ordering products that are not carried locally is calculating shipping. A majority of the vendors stipulated that estimating shipping to Alaska prior to ordering is difficult because they are dependent on constantly changing truck availability and rates. We do not expect funds to be leftover. However, if there are any residual funds we would like to purchase smaller recycling bins for batteries, electronics, and printer cartridges and place them in the laundry rooms and the Cutler RA Office.
**Qualification and Experience:**

Terilyn Lawson is a Resident Assistant for the Cutler Apartment Complex. Her responsibilities as an RA is community development and ensure residents are provided adequate services to meet their needs while living on campus. She is an active recycler and an advocate for sustainable living. Her position as an RA can help promote and influence students to reduce their waste and create a sustainable environment.

Matthew Helt is a resident at the Cutler Apartment Complex. He is a graduate student studying Natural Resource Management in the Master’s International Program. Before embarking on his Peace Corps service he was a member of the NRM 630 class in the spring of 2008 that proposed the concept of sustainability at the University. When he returned to UAF in the fall of 2010 he was surprised to still find a lack of recycling infrastructure at the Cutler Apartment Complex. It is his goal to change this.