

Waste Bin Standardization

Project Summary

This project set a standard for waste bins, signage, labeling and bin locations across campus. The standards were established in 2016 by a committee of faculty, students, and staff to reduce waste and improve recycling and compost quality. Details are available at ocs.umich.edu/programs/waste-bins.



Basic bins being assembled.



This project supports U-M's sustainability goal of reducing waste sent to landfills by 40%.

TOTAL BINS INSTALLED

809 DESIGNER BINS

6,549 BASIC BINS

1,274 REPURPOSED BINS

Standardization Highlights

- Consistent signage and colors to help people sort waste properly.
- Bins placed in central locations and removed from classrooms, auditoriums, and most conference rooms to improve service and ensure all landfill bins are paired with recycling.
- Designer bins to meet the needs of high-profile areas; basic bins for all other areas.

Process

- OCS staff toured each building with the facility manager and/or custodial supervisor.
- Based on their input and the standardization guidelines, OCS staff proposed a bin placement plan for approval by all stakeholders.
- Staff from Moving & Trucking and OCS placed the standard bins and signs in approved locations and removed non-standard bins and signs.
- Removed bins were either repurposed in other buildings or brought to Property Disposition for resale.

Next Steps

- Continue to provide standard bins per the Waste and Recycling Bin Standardization Guidelines.
- Work with facility managers and custodians to maintain and replace any broken or damaged bins/signs.



Basic bins and signs.



Designer bins and signs.

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