

RECYCLING

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A recycling problem would not prove a financial burden to the University and could eventually even make money for the Physical Plant, Kaplan said.

To save on labor costs, the Physical Plant could use workers who currently get paid to haul garbage as well as hire work-study students, she said. As landfill costs soar and the price of virgin materials increases, recycling will also save the University money, Kaplan said.

McEvers himself pointed out that the value of recyclable materials will increase as more mills are built to process recycled paper and cardboard, thus driving up demand — and the price — for these materials. Weyerhaeuser announced last week that it will build a \$70 million plant at its Springfield mill to re-process cardboard.

Another concern cited by administrators earlier this year — disposing of confidential material — may not be as much of a problem as originally feared, McEvers said. Confidential material is not required to be shredded or burned, and because the bulk of the University's confidential documents consists of student academic records — documents with almost no financial value to provide an incentive for stealing — most confidential material can be simply marked as such and recycled with other paper.

McEvers said he plans to present his findings to Physical Plant Director George Hecht sometime this week. Hecht said that the report will in turn be presented to the University's newly-formed committee on recycling, chaired by Assistant Vice President Muriel Jackson.

The Physical Plant hopes to announce its plan for recycling by the time fall term starts, but "there are lots of issues" to consider, Hecht said.

Dan Williams, vice president for administration, said the University administration is "very positive" about recycling. "It's not only part of being a good employer and a good citizen, we want to set an example," he said. "However, we can't ignore the financial implications.

Meanwhile, University Housing and EMU Food Services plan to introduce reusable plastic mugs for hot and cold beverages in order to reduce the number of paper cups used in residence hall dining areas and in the EMU, or eliminate them entirely.

Each dorm resident arriving this fall will be given a mug to

use in the dining halls, said housing food service Director Fred Babcock. Residence hall dining areas are also ordering larger glass tumblers to replace the disposable paper cups previously supplied to students.

"We hope to eliminate the paper cups completely by the time students get here this fall," Babcock said.

The same plastic mugs distributed in residence halls will be sold in the EMU, and anyone who uses them will be able to buy hot or cold beverages at a discount, said Dennis Carr, EMU food service director.

The mugs, which should be available on or after Oct. 1, are part of Carr's effort to pre-cycle, or reduce the amount of disposable paper and plastics that the EMU orders, he said. "We would like to come as close as possible to eliminating paper cups," he added.

Carr said he would also like to get rid of portion packs for sugar, cream, ketchup and mustard and replace them with bulk dispensers.

Both Carr and Babcock said they would like to see aluminum, tin, cardboard and glass included in the Physical Plant's recycling program. McEvers said that is "definitely being considered."

Currently, a University classified employee volunteers to take cardboard from the EMU food service to Weyerhaeuser to be recycled, Carr said.

"This is something she does entirely on her own," he said.

In fact, individuals on campus deserve most of the credit for showing the enthusiasm for current recycling programs that has made them so successful and for writing letters and making phone calls to administrators expressing the importance of keeping and expanding the program, Kaplan said.

"It's exciting to see consumer pressure make a difference, to know that individuals can make a difference with letters and phone calls," she said. "People should never think their opinion doesn't count."

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