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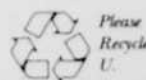
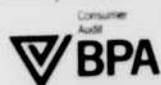
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# Schools collect trash but no cash

## Recycling programs go into the red while aiding environment

By ELIZABETH KELLER  
*The Volante, U. of South Dakota*

Campus recycling programs may be trendy, but they're not profitable. Universities across the country are going into the red to be green.

Each month, 228 tons of paper are collected and recycled from the U. of California, Los Angeles, campus. But UCLA recycling director E.J. Kirby said the money earned from recycling the waste is not enough to pay for the expense of the recycling program.

"Our goal is not to make money," Kirby said. "We are trying to reduce the amount of trash that is taken to the landfills, regardless of the cost."

The Associated Students of UCLA recycling program, which handles recycling at the campus's four student unions, has collected more than a ton of aluminum cans and 262 tons of newspaper since the program began in October 1989.

The program received \$7,217 for the materials. But Allen Rosenbaum, ASUCLA recycling coordinator, said this amount wasn't enough to offset the costs of the program.

"Our total controllable expenses for the 1990-91 year was over \$100,000," he said. "We don't really earn money from recycling. We declare an income because we get money from recyclers, but that money is absorbed back into the program."

Other universities also are throwing away money to keep from throwing away trash.

New York U.'s program recovered 112 tons of office paper and 2 tons of aluminum cans last year.

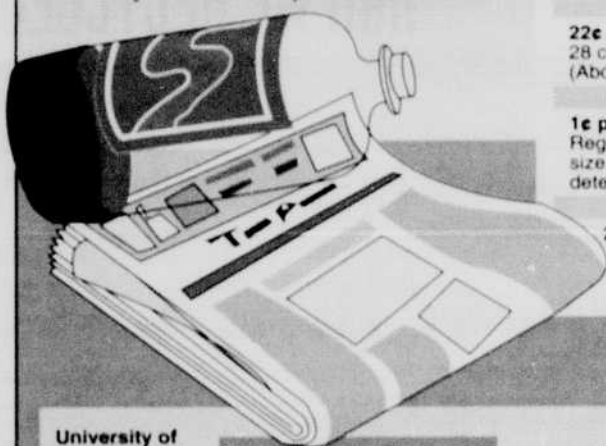
"As a result, we get about \$330 a month from recycling paper," said Carl Hultberg, NYU recycling coordinator.

"The revenue from recycling doesn't offset any of the costs of recycling, because right now the market price for materials is at an all-time low. We are in an over-supply situation. The market is saturated, and prices are sinking."

"One way to increase recycling would be to establish a government-subsidized recycling program," Hultberg said. "I think we need to overhaul the laws in this country as they pertain to resources. Right now, our laws favor nonrenewable resources, and until that changes, colleges are going to lose

### BRINGING IT BACK

Amounts of materials campus programs have recycled over the past nine months.



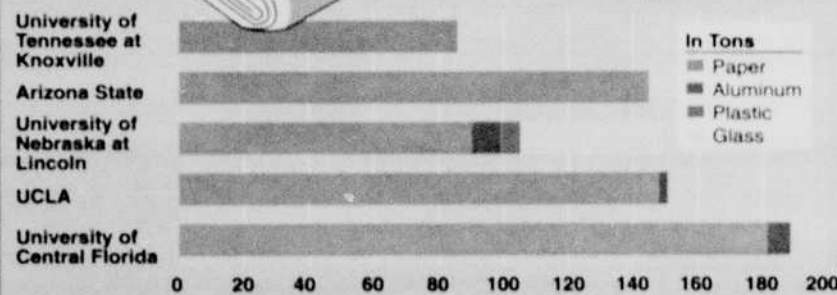
### WHAT IT'S WORTH

Averages based on six figures from across the country

**Aluminum cans**  
**22¢ per pound**  
 28 cans is equal to 1 pound.  
 (About 5 six packs equals 22¢)

**Glass**  
**1¢ per pound**  
 Regular household type, size and density of the glass determines its worth.

**Plastic**  
**2¢ per pound**  
 Softdrink bottles, etc.  
 Eight to ten 2 litre bottles equal 1 pound



EMMETT MAYER III, THE DRIFTWOOD, U. OF NEW ORLEANS

money trying to recycle."

The average price paid for aluminum cans two years ago was 80 cents per pound. Now aluminum cans are worth about 22 cents per pound, and the market continues to drop a few cents each month, he said. Newspaper and other paper, which at one time brought about 20 cents per pound, are now collected by most recyclers on a donation basis.

The recycling program at Arizona State U. received a boost last year when Pepsi Corp. gave the school \$100,000 to improve their aluminum recycling after officials agreed to raise their soft drink price by 10 cents a can.

"The money has been a real help," said Sheri Spaseff, recycling coordinator. "The price for running this program has definitely overpowered the money we make from recycled materials."

Over nine months, ASU recycled 145 tons of paper, earning \$12,799.

Pat Remsen, recycling coordinator at the U. of Central Florida, said recycling saves the school money in dumpster and collection fees, but it still isn't a profitable venture.

Seven tons of aluminum cans and 125 tons of computer paper were collected and recycled from UCF during one nine month

period. And it took five months for the recycling program to collect 6 tons of newspaper and 52 tons of cardboard.

"We started out good," Remsen said, "but the prices for recycling fell, and just last month we had to pay to recycle."

Recycling at the U. of Nebraska also took a nosedive last year. Citizens for Environmental Improvement, a private organization that existed for more than 20 years before going under last fall, used to promote recycling at the school.

"The market price got so low that they had to stop," said Don Hinds, manager of UN landscape operations. "They couldn't even make payroll last year."

Hinds said the university recycles through the use of a city-run dump located on campus. In return for monitoring the dump site, the city collects the university's waste for free. During the last year, Hinds said UN recycled more than 140 tons of paper, glass, plastic and aluminum.

While schools aren't turning profits from recycling, they are saving money in other areas.

In an average day, students at the U. of Minnesota, Twin Cities, produce 35 tons of waste, about 7 tons of which is recycled. Each ton recycled saves the school \$110 in incinerator fees.

"The money that we save on dumping fees and the revenues earned from recycling are channelled back into the program," said Dave Sanocki, UMTC's assistant recycling coordinator. "We don't make a lot of money in recycling materials, but that revenue combined with the savings on dumping fees helps a little bit."

In one month, the college earned \$3,318 from turning in aluminum cans. In the same month, UMTC recycled 70 tons of newspaper and 8 tons of glass.



BILL ROSS, THE ARKANSAWYER, U. OF ARKANSAS, PINE BLUFF  
 Jayda Abernathy, a senior at the U. of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, gathers newspapers to recycle.