

RecycleMania hits the residence halls

The two-month recycling competition pits UO students against schools across the nation

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

On Jan. 30, University residence hall students kicked off RecycleMania, a national intercollegiate competition to collect the most recyclable items from student living areas. The competition will continue until April 9.

"A lot of schools are looking at us as the team to beat," University Housing Recycling Coordinator Robyn Hathcock said. "It's fun to compete against Ivy League schools and perform really well on a unique level." Rob Gogan, Harvard University campus recycling coordinator, said in an e-mail to Hathcock that his program has respect for University recyclers.

"Your school finished second in RecycleMania in 2003 and won the National Recycling Coalition's award for Best Campus Recycling program in the nation a few years ago," he said in the e-mail. "We hope you aren't getting cocky, though. We here in the East have some tricks up our sleeves that are going to make it quite a chase for you."

RecycleMania involves two separate competitions: The Per Capita Classic, where the number of pounds of recycled material is divided by the number of students, and the Recycling Rate Competition, where a school's recycled material is compared with its amount of trash. The University is participating in the Per Capita Classic, and



Freshman Sarah Cuddy, right, reads about recycling to get a prize from RecycleMania participant Allison Maikath on Friday afternoon in Hamilton Complex. The fact stated: "The average aluminum can in the U.S. contains 40 percent post-consumer recycled aluminum. American consumers and industry throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the entire U.S. commercial air fleet every three months."

LAUREN WIMER | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Hathcock expressed hopes that being in the same division as Pacific-10 Conference rivals and Ivy League schools will increase interest in the competition among students at the University.

"Another thing that's really got us fired up is that OSU is participating this year," Hathcock said. "The competition is definitely on with OSU in it."

Hathcock plans to promote the program by posting weekly recycling totals in the lobbies of the Carson, Barnhart, and Hamilton residence hall complexes. Events throughout the competition will include a recycling fair, displays in residence hall lobbies and a recycled art workshop.

According to the RecycleMania program's Web site, www.recyclemaniacs.org, the competition began in 2001 between Ohio University and Miami University as an effort to increase recycling in the residence and dining halls. It expanded to four schools in 2002, eight in 2003, 17 in 2004, and 49 this year.

2003 is the only year the University of Oregon has previously participated in the competition. During the 10-week period, residence hall students recycled an average of 51.5 pounds of recyclables per person per week and took second to Bowling Green State University.

"We were beat out of first by a pound," Hathcock said. "A pound

works out to two glass bottles per person per week."

According to Hathcock, residence hall students at the University recycled 32.5 tons of glass, metal and paper during fall 2004. The dining halls recycled more than 22 tons during the same period.

"As high as that number sounds, you take a look in the Dumpsters, at least 50 percent of that is still recyclable," Hathcock said. "Good recycling practices have a tremendous impact on the environment. They save a lot of energy and natural resources. Those benefits are what are worth competing for."

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Module: C- or higher is required for credits

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the module is posted and earn a "C-" or higher in each of the required classes. The module will be a combination of writing, communication, mathematics, arts and letters, social science, biological or physical science, and elective courses.

"The OTM really is a joint product of an enormous amount of collaborative effort," Gilkey said.

All of the state's public community colleges and universities participated in the process, and hearings for the program were held on all seven OUS campuses and at Mount Hood Community College. Development for the program began in spring 2004.

The OTM will be introduced at all OUS universities and community colleges for 2005-06.

"When students lose credits, they also lose valuable time, money and momentum towards a degree," Gretchen Schuette, chair of the Excellence in Delivery and Productivity Working Group of the State Board of Higher Education and Chemeketa Community College president said in a press release. "The Oregon Transfer Module retains the value of hard-earned credits, helping Oregon's diverse students reach their college goals faster, better and at less cost."

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