

FROM YOU TO BRAND NEW

A JOURNEY THROUGH CAMPUS RECYCLING

You already know it's important to recycle your bottles, cans, and paper. But have you ever wondered what happens after you **bin it**?



1

Bin it! Putting your waste in the proper bin is the first step toward getting sorted and sent to the landfill or recycling center. While a few recyclables may get sorted out of the trash later, it's best to sort your waste whenever possible.

MYTH

I can only recycle soda bottles, aluminum cans, and notebook paper on campus.

FACT

You can recycle aluminum cans and #1 and #2 plastics as well as most kinds of paper in labelled bins. There are also special programs for cardboard, glass, and Styrofoam.

MYTH

It doesn't matter if I use the right bin when I have a choice because campus throws all the bags in the same truck

FACT

They share a truck, but landfill and recyclable bags are different colors so they can be separated at the Waste Transfer Station.

2

Campus routinely empties the cans and hauls landfill and recyclable waste by truck to the Waste Transfer Station



3

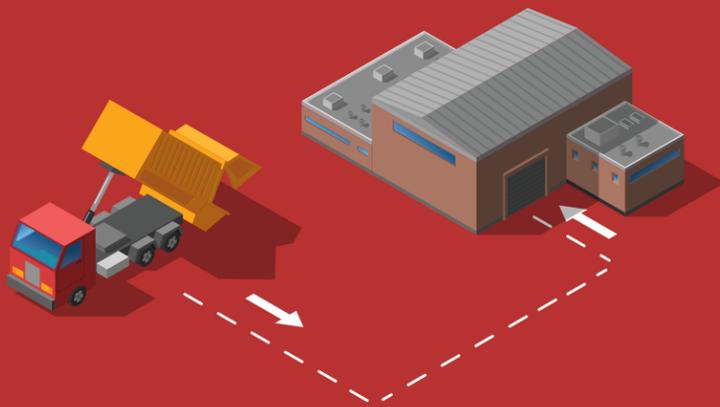
The Waste Transfer Station is located at the southwest edge of campus. Almost all of campus's recyclable and landfill waste goes through it before its final journey.

MYTH

I can recycle any paper or cardboard, including used napkins and pizza boxes.

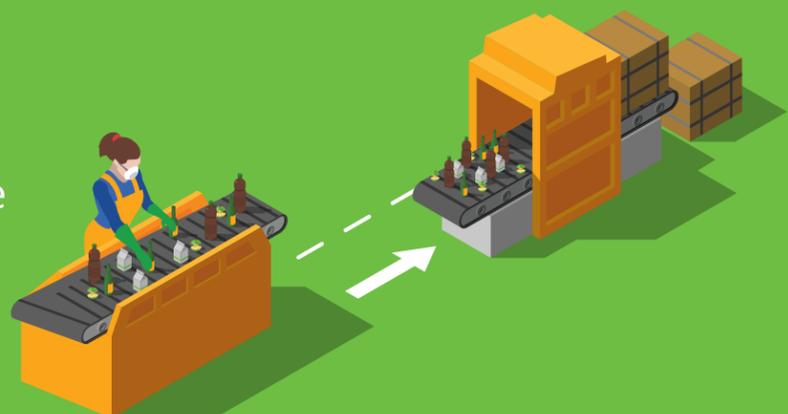
FACT

If cardboard or paper is wet or is contaminated with food leftovers – even just grease or crumbs – it cannot be recycled. Rinse what you can; toss what you can't.



4

Once at the waste transfer station, trash goes through a hand sort to pull out recyclable items before sending the rest to the landfill. Recyclable items are sent to recycling centers to begin their new life as something else.



MYTH

I heard that campus sorts recyclable items out of the trash, so I can just throw everything in the trash can.

FACT

Trash sorting is the last effort to catch what we can, but a lot gets left behind. Recyclables mixed with trash often end up too contaminated to recycle.

for more information about campus recycling, please visit bit.ly/uofi-recycle