

Your Trash & Recycling cans are moving!

Help us improve the recycling program at UMSL!



Changes to Collection

- ✓ Larger bins — one for mixed recyclables and one for trash — are placed in central locations.
- ✓ Please take your items to the central location, sorting your own recyclables and emptying your trash into the appropriate bins.
- ✓ The Facilities team will remove all desk-side bins from cubicles and private offices.
- ✓ If you're not sure if something is recyclable, throw it in the trash can. Or review the rules about what can be recycled!

FAQ's



When will this happen? Signs and emails will let you know when your building is scheduled to receive new bins. This will happen over the next three semesters.



What if I really love my deskside bin? Can I keep it? Sure! But then you'll be responsible for emptying it. Custodians will prioritize emptying the cans in central, public spaces.



How do I know things are actually getting recycled? Custodians are trained on how to recycle, and we track the weights each month.



What should be recycled? When in doubt, remember to "stick with the six" items to recycle:

1. paper,
2. flattened cardboard,
3. plastic bottles & containers,
4. glass jars & bottles,
5. metal food & beverage cans, and
6. food & beverage cartons.



What's the worst thing to put in a recycling bin?

Plastic bags! Do NOT include any plastic film!

Please recycle plastic bags in specialty bins designed to collect just plastic bags. Plastic bags require different processing equipment than regular recycling.



How good is UMSL at recycling? Last year, UMSL recycled over 72 tons! That's the equivalent of saving 209 metric tons of CO₂ or removing 44 cars from the road! Our current diversion rate is around 13% and we know we can recycle more!



Will centralizing bins help us recycle more? Most schools and businesses that have implemented programs like this see a recycling increase of 20%.



Is this sanitary? By not spending time emptying personal trash cans, custodial manpower can be redirected to keep common areas cleaner. This is important when facing Covid-19, while cleanliness is even more important.



Where can I find out more information about our recycling program? Please visit sustainability.umsl.edu for more info! You can also sign up for the UMSL Sustainability e-newsletter for monthly updates.

Please remember...

- ✘ Don't put batteries or electronics in the recycle bin. Save those for electronic recycling drives.
- ✘ Don't put loose shredded paper in the recycle bin! Use the confidential shred service instead!
- ✘ Food scraps go in the landfill / trash can. You can order composting for special events.
- ✘ Make your office a "zero waste" space by going paperless and encouraging colleagues to bring their own mugs, nametags, etc.
- ✘ You can share office supplies using the "Swap Boxes" around campus.
- ✘ Don't forget to "close the loop." Buy items made out of recycled content when possible to help create markets for the materials we put in the recycle bins.

- ✘ The dumpsters with the white lids are for loose recyclables only. Most buildings have both a trash and recycling dumpster right outside. These dumpsters are for University-generated waste - and not your personal trash from home! Anyone is allowed to empty their office trash or recycling themselves.

- ✘ Did you catch a co-worker "green" -handed? Please let us know when you spot someone going out of their way to recycle! You can also nominate a staff member for a Staff Excellence award via the UMSL Staff Association.

- ✘ You can join the "UMSL Green Team" on Microsoft Teams by emailing sustainability@umsl.edu or by simply searching for us in the UM System Microsoft Teams platform. By joining the Team, you can share tips or report when something isn't working.

- ✘ Your participation makes UMSL a better place!