

## **FIU Solid Waste and Recycling Program Frequently Ask Questions**

1. Where is FIU recycling program implemented?
  - The Facilities Management recycling program is executed by the Custodial Services department for all academic, administrative, and public spaces in assigned buildings at the Modesto Maidique, Biscayne Bay, and Engineering campuses, as well as the Wolfsonian and Annex Museum. The recycling program at FIU I-75, Brickell, and other subsidiary campuses are implemented and executed by the property manager.
2. What system does FIU use to dispose of recycling? ([see attached document for additional information](#)).
  - FIU's Facilities Department uses a single stream recycling program. This means all our recyclable materials are disposed into one container and our contractor, "Great Waste", collect the materials and deliver it two recycling plants. The recycling materials that are collected on campus are delivered and processed at the Waste Management Reuter facility or Waste Connections and sent back to manufacturing companies for further use and recycling.
  - FIU also recycle batteries, cartridges, lamps, ballast, and lamp fixtures. These materials are collected periodically by an outside vendor for recycling. ([see attached document for data](#))
3. What system does FIU use to dispose of regular trash? ([see attached document for additional information](#)).
  - We have a numbers of trash collection methods throughout the university.
    1. Food waste are collected in regular trash containers.
    2. Recycling materials are collected in our single use recycling bins.
    3. Trees and vegetations are collected separately.
    4. Constructions materials are collected separately.
    5. We recycle electronics, batteries, and cartridges.
    6. Light bulbs and ballasts are collected and recycled.
    7. FIU also has an Asset Management Program that is handled by the Surplus Property and Central Receiving Operations which is oversee by the Office of the Controller. You may visit their [website](#) to learn more about the program.
4. How does FIU dispose of its sewage?
  - The Sewage at FIU are disposed through our pipelines. The sewage goes through the lift station and goes to the main line in the street, which takes it to the Miami Dade Water and Sewage Department plant.
5. Does FIU take environmental action in the disposal process of its waste?
  - Yes! FIU considers all available methods to reduce its environmental footprint for waste disposal. Currently, we are diverting approximately 30% of our solid waste stream through our recycling program.

6. How often does FIU dispose of trash?
  - Please review document titled "[Waste Management Acceptable and Non-Acceptable Materials for Disposal](#)" on our website for more information on waste disposal.
  
7. How does FIU manage hazardous waste such as chemicals and toxins?
  - Facilities Management does not handle waste disposal for chemicals and toxins. Hazardous waste, such as chemicals and toxins are under the responsibility of Office of Research and Economic Development. Please contact Stephanie Mitjans from Office of Research and Economic Development (305-348-2494) and/or Gina Gallian-Oubrar from Environmental Health and Safety (305-348-2621) for more information regarding this.
  
6. Does FIU recycle computers, scientific equipment, furniture, electronics, and vehicles?
  - Yes! FIU has an Asset Management program in accordance to Florida State Statute Ch.375.055. The handling of state-owned tangible personal property is overseen by the Office of the Controller. You may visit their [website](#) to learn more about the program.
  
7. How does FIU manage and regulate "event" waste? i.e., football games, festivals, student activities.
  - Event waste is collected through our contractor Great Waste.
  
8. How does FIU differentiate recyclable and landfill materials?
  - In all offices (both at BBC and MMC) we provide small blue recycling bins. Office occupants are expected to empty their own bins into the larger recycling bins stationed in hallways and copy room areas. In common areas we have dual recycling/landfill bins. We have 6 full-time recyclers on staff between MMC and BBC that are around campus every day collecting the single stream recycling to bring it to the collection points where it is picked up by our recycling contractor and transferred every week to a single stream recycling plant. [See attached document to see how our trash are sorted at the university.](#)
  
9. How does FIU food vendor's dispose of food waste?
  - FIU food vendors dispose of food waste and containers in Great Waste dumpster on campus.
  - For oil waste, food vendors outsourced contractors for pick-up and disposal. You may contact Office of Business Services to speak to a representative from Chartwells at (305) 348-2187 or [bussvc@fiu.edu](mailto:bussvc@fiu.edu).
  
10. What recycling plants do FIU's recyclable materials go to?
  - The recycling materials that are collected on campus are delivered and processed at the Waste Management Reuter facility or Waste Connections and sent back to manufacturing companies for further use and recycling.

11. What happens to the recycled materials that are collected on FIU Campus?
  - To learn more about how recyclable materials are repurposed visit this link [Building Today for Tomorrow® | WM 2024 Sustainability Report](#)
12. What landfill/plant does FIU's solid waste go to?
  - Solid Waste is taken to the Miami-Dade County landfill located in Medley FL.
13. What happens to the Solid Waste that are collected on FIU Campus?
  - To learn more about the solid waste management visit Miami-Dade County site at this link [https://www.miamidade.gov/global/service.page?Mduid\\_service=ser1464799833678390](https://www.miamidade.gov/global/service.page?Mduid_service=ser1464799833678390)
14. Where is the biggest source of waste coming from?
  - Food waste is the largest source of waste at FIU. The buildings that house several food vendors generate the most waste on campus. The second area that generates the most waste is from the student dormitories.
15. How much waste is generated by FIU students and of that waste, what percentage is recycled/recyclable?
  - [See attached document](#) for data on solid waste and recycling materials collected from FIU campuses.
16. What is FIU actively doing to reduce excess waste and promote recycling within the FIU culture and community?
  - The Office of University Sustainability plays a critical role in creating awareness and initiating programs for the FIU community to promote recycling. You may visit [their website](#) to learn more about their program.
  - FIU Facilities Management provide materials and services to reduce waste and promote recycling on campus. [See attached document to see how our trash are sorted at the university](#). Also we provide [materials](#) to educate the university community on how to properly recycle.
17. Apart from recycling, what else can FIU do to promote sustainable living?
  - Our sustainability efforts in facilities extend beyond just the collection of recyclables. For example, our solid waste contractor uses a fleet of vehicles that has 70% been converted to operate on natural gas instead of gasoline or diesel. In terms of our supply chain purchases we have made many sustainable enhancements. Items such as ceiling tiles, trash receptacles, new carpet and new flooring all contain recycled content; faucets in restrooms have been converted to solar power; the paint we purchase contains low VOC; cleaning chemicals are 90% EPA green certified products; all paper products used in all of our restrooms are 100% recycled content; urinals have been converted to ultra-low water urinals; toilets and urinals are all equipped with automatic flush valves; Interior and exterior lighting has been upgraded to LED; installation of

new exterior light poles are dark sky lighting, which help with preventing light pollutions. Windows incorporate high quality glazing or film to reduce the amount of heat infiltration, but not of lighting, into the building.

For additional questions you email us at [custodia@fiu.edu](mailto:custodia@fiu.edu).