

Student Organization Sustainability Initiative Funding Proposal

Part I- General Information:

Name of Student Organization	Student Government Association
Contact/Responsible Person	Kyle Gardiner
Contact Office Held/Title	Director of Sustainability
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Part II- Project Cost Information

Estimated Cost of this Proposal	\$3,670	See III.C. below
Estimated Savings -	\$ 920 (per year)	See III.D. below
Net Cost of this Proposal =	\$2,750 (first year)	

Part III- Supporting Information

A. Please describe your sustainability initiative and attach supporting documentation.

Having a sufficient number of Mixed Paper Recycling Containers for the residence halls continues to be a student priority. Virginia Tech has no mixed paper recycling receptacles located inside the residence halls and up until this year had no mixed paper recycling containers outside. The 2010-2011 Green RFP Pilot Program provided funding for the procurement of ten 1 ½ cubic yard outdoor Mixed Paper Recycling Containers with lid to meet this critical demand. The Office of Energy and Sustainability provided funding for the procurement and installation of 40 metal signs of the ten containers. Facilities Services attached the signage and deployed the containers to ten strategic collection locations near the residence halls during the fall 2011 semester. Results are very positive. The intent was to deploy those ten containers as a pilot program to determine if this met the demand and if we need more.

This proposal requests funding to purchase five additional 1-1/2 cubic yard containers with lids for placement outside the residence halls at additional regional collection locations. Without question, providing students with a realistic mixed paper recycling option will increase our overall recycling rate and prevent that material from being deposited in our local landfill.

B. How does this initiative help to achieve the goals of the Virginia Tech Climate Action Commitment Resolution and Sustainability Plan?

The VTCAC Resolution, item 8, states: "Virginia Tech will adopt a goal of 35% recycle rate by 2012 and 50% by 2025." (see: <http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/climateAction.pdf>)

Using the Commonwealth of Virginia formula, the university achieved recycling rates of 36.48% and 37.5% for calendar years 2009 and 2010 respectively. The university recycled over 1,887 and 1,765 tons of principal recycled materials in 2009 and 2010, and in both years mixed paper tonnage represented approximately 20% of the figure. Without question capturing mixed paper recycling from the residence halls will increase our recycling rates. For calendar year 2011 the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority's fee for mixed paper is \$0 per ton (free) whereas the fee for trash is \$51 per ton. Increasing our mixed paper recycling no has the added benefit of reducing our costs.

C. What is the cost of your proposal? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your cost estimate.

The Facilities Services Department received a customer quote from our supplier W. W. Granger, Inc. of \$734 for one 1-1/2 cubic yard receptacle (no change from last year). The total cost for five receptacles is \$3,670. The manufacturer is Rubbermaid. Each receptacle has a hinged lid to keep the mixed paper dry. These receptacles are heavy duty and are already being used on campus for other requirements. Mixed paper is collected using a 16 foot box truck with rear lift. The lift can accommodate the proposed receptacles with no modifications.

D. Will your proposal produce cost savings for the University? If so, how much? Please describe in adequate detail the basis for your savings estimate.

This proposal represents a cost savings due to the difference between waste disposal costs versus the cost of mixed paper recycling. Effective January 1, 2011, our cost per ton for mixed paper recycling is \$0, and our cost per ton for municipal solid waste is \$51. In 2010, our mixed paper was approximately 360 tons. Based upon the current number of containers, it is estimated that the additional recycling containers will increase the amount of recycled material by 10%. This represents a net savings of \$920 ($\$51 \times 360 \times 0.10$). The cost savings will be realized every year. With an upfront cost of \$3,670 and an estimated annual savings of \$920 this project has a simple payback period of less than four years.

Economics aside, mixed paper recycling in residence halls is one of the most requested items by students to the SGA and to the Office of Energy and Sustainability. Providing a method for residence to more easily participate in mixed paper recycling will help demonstrate the university's commitment to sustainability.

E. Is this funding request an Ongoing or One-Time change (**please check one**)?

One-time

Ongoing

If ongoing funding is requested please explain how the initiative and resource needs may change in future years.

F. Is funding available for this request from another source? If yes, describe the funding (source, amount, etc.)

No.

Part IV- Requestors/Reviewers

Kyle Gardiner, SGA Director of Sustainability at Virginia Tech

Nov 9, 2011

Prepared By (Name of Contact for Student Organization)

(Date)

Dennis C. Cochrane, Sustainability Program Manager, Office of Energy & Sustainability

Nov 9, 2011

Reviewed By (Name of Office of Sustainability Representative)

(Date)