Garbage on the Green

2014 Summary Report

Prepared by:
The UNF Environmental Center
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What is Garbage on the Green?

Garbage on the Green is a waste-auditing program developed by the UNF Environmental Center in 2007, with support from Physical Facilities. The audit was designed to gain a better understanding of UNF’s solid waste stream and to improve the overall diversion rate. The program corresponds with UNF’s plan to reduce its overall environmental footprint.

This program is aimed at helping UNF achieve Florida’s goal that 75% of its waste will be recycled by 2020. The program continues to grow each year and brings focus to our society’s need to use natural resources more wisely. Garbage on the Green shows students the vital connection between material use, energy consumption and its impact on the environment and is important towards our goal of graduating a generation of environmentally literate leaders.
In addition to the waste audit, the Environmental Center partnered with 9 community exhibitors to put together a local market event. Exhibitors were encouraged to car-pool and limit the use of handouts in order to keep it a low impact event.

118 volunteers worked for a combined 260 hours. They sorted 758.09 lbs. of trash from 5 locations. Volunteers picked up 36 lbs. of litter from campus. 173 students visited 9 exhibitors at the Eco-Expo.

For the first time, the Environmental Center created a video if the Garbage on the Green process: http://tinyurl.com/mv66aya
Results

After the audit is completed, the results help the Environmental Center determine the best way to increase recycling practices on campus and how to improve the audit process for the future. The following were some of the most significant findings of this year’s audit:

- 30% of the material in trash cans could have been recycled.
The above data show the distribution of materials found in UNF’s waste stream. The categories of white office paper, mixed paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass bottles and plastics we considered recycling. Of those categories of recycling, plastics were most prevalent in garbage receptacles around campus.
The above data show the overall trends in UNF’s waste stream over a six-year period. The diversion rate has had a positive trend for the observed time frame.
Garbage on the Green is held annually by the University of North Florida’s Environmental Center.

Please see www.unf.edu/ecenter for our formal Waste Audit Report and more detailed information on Garbage on the Green.

The Environmental Center would like to graciously acknowledge our community sponsors:

- Pepsi
- UNF Physical Facilities
- Student Volunteers
- Republic Services
- Community Exhibitors
- UNF Health Promotions

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