



Sustainability

Washington University in St. Louis

Green Offices Program

Hanging Landfill Bin Policy

Washington University is committed to reducing the amount of waste our community sends to the landfill. Since the University converted to single stream recycling in 2009, campus recycling has nearly doubled. Nonetheless, the University still sends more than 65% of its total waste to the landfill. *Much of our landfill waste is actually recyclable*, but is simply not being put into the correct bin. To help save natural and financial resources, consider removing individual landfill bins in your office in order to:

- 1) **Reduce the amount that goes to landfill versus recycling and/or composting.** If individuals have to get up to throw their trash away, they'll be more likely to make a conscious decision in sorting it.
- 2) **Reduce the number of plastic liners used.** Custodial services are obligated to empty trash bins, even if they haven't been filled, resulting in wasted half-empty trash bin liners. Using only a communal landfill bin reduces the number of liners used and wasted.
- 3) **Reduce custodial costs and boost efficiency.** When an office eliminates individual landfills, custodial staff saves time and money spent emptying and re-lining each bin.

While removing all individual landfill bins remains the preferred best practice, we understand that this may create a situation where every individual piece of landfill waste must be walked to a bin in a common area. For this reason, the Office of Sustainability, the Danforth Campus Facilities Department, and the WUSM Facilities Management Department are excited to introduce an alternative hanging landfill bin program. Small hanging landfill bins are a simple solution that provides a landfill receptacle for individual offices while emphasizing that the majority of what we dispose of every day can be recycled. To participate in the program, please read and understand the policy outlined below:



- 1) **Liners:** No bin liners will be provided. If individuals would like liners, they must bring their own bags from home. For messy landfill items, office members should use the common area landfill bin, which does have a liner.
- 2) **Cleaning:** Faculty and staff are responsible for emptying hanging bins into the common area receptacle *and* periodically cleaning the bins themselves, if necessary. Housekeeping will continue to service the individual recycling bins in each office as well as the communal landfill receptacle(s).

- 3) **Purchasing:** In exchange for returning all individual landfill bins, WUSTL Facilities Planning and Management will pay for and deliver the new hanging bins. The old individual bins will be warehoused by Facilities until a use can be found for them.
- 4) **Enrollment:** if you are on Danforth/North/West Campus, to enroll in the program, email Jan Schade at jschade@wustl.edu. If you are located at the Medical Campus, email Steve Smith at smithst@wusm.wustl.edu.

Questions? Comments?

Email sustainability@wustl.edu

Source: [Clean River Recycling Solutions](#)