

Waste management



Waste bins on Stellenbosch University grounds



Waste management as a sustainability project

The project of waste management was widely instituted at Stellenbosch University in the beginning of 2012. In 2012, a much needed waste manager was appointed. A part of the project of waste management on campus was already instituted in university residences in 2011, when a Student Representative Council member proposed an idea to Stellenbosch University Facility Management. The idea was that residences received two bins in each dorm room, which was to be used for 'dry waste' and 'wet waste' respectively. 'Dry waste' and 'wet waste' bins are now also widely distributed across campus. This is the focus of the project for purposes of this presentation.

The bins themselves serve as part of the awareness campaign for waste management on campus - but this is problematic. It seems there is also a need for an

awareness campaign about the bins themselves. It has been found that students do not go to much trouble to follow the instructions on these bins and "the more they have to think about recycling - the less likely they are to do it."

It does seem that students are not the only components to an energetic recycling atmosphere on campus. After discussing the issue with Facilities Management staff member, Meg Pittaway*, it was discovered that support from Stellenbosch University staff members are also vital to ensure the success of the waste management project on campus. Students come and go, but Stellenbosch University staff members are the constant force which can set an invaluable example on campus when it comes to managing waste sustainably.

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ZERO WASTE BY 2020

Facilities Management at Stellenbosch University has been able to reach its waste reduction goals for 2012. The long-term goal of Facilities Management at Stellenbosch University is to achieve zero waste by 2020.