

HOUSING

Responsibilities:

The Department of Housing at USC provides on-campus housing to students and faculty.

Contact Personnel:

Dr. Gene Luna serves as Director of Housing. Director of Facility Management is currently open and Bob Harmon is Director of Custodial Services. Michael Koman serves as Environmental Programs Manager.

Number of Employees:

130 administrative

6000+ residence halls occupants

Physical Location of Department:

1215 Blossom Street

Tracking of Environmental Progress:

Housing has adapted the University's Environmental Policy for the moment until it expands with its own. The department does track and record all of its sustainability efforts. Volumes are tracked for Move Out recycling, Move In cardboard recycling and recycling efforts related to renovations and furniture replacement. Volumes are currently tracked for recycling of construction waste at the West Quad construction site. Recycling of materials from the year round efforts of residents is not tracked, but will be once Environmental Services implements new trucks with scales in 2004. The department's EMS and BEST programs provide for tracking of programs, procedures and training efforts related to sustainability.

Plans/Goals for the Future:

Seek ISO 14001 certification.

Complete West Quad 'Green' residence hall and obtain LEED certification in 2004.

Expand education and promotion of sustainability and recycling to residents with new Environmental GA.

Improve recycling infrastructure.

Continue current programs.

Increase use of environmentally friendly products.

Implement an Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Program.

Work closer with manufacturers and contractors especially with renovation projects.

First extensive renovation to implement sustainability set for Summer 2004.

The Survey: 2002-2003

These questions are intended to provide an approximation of your department's environmental progress and function as indicators that can be used in future years to track USC's environmental status. Please also include any other statistics you feel are relevant.

1. How many students reside in on-campus housing?

6482

2. How many residence halls are on campus?

37

3. What materials are included in the housing recycling program?

How much is recycled through the housing program?

Paper, phone books, mixed paper, plastic bottles, glass, computer paper, cardboard, newspaper, and aluminum cans.

Year round volumes are not available from Environmental Services at this time. Move In cardboard recycling averages 12 tons per year. Move Out recycling of food, clothing, toiletries, concrete block and wood averages 37 tons per year.

4. Are recycling bins available to all resident students? If so, what kind of bins and where are they located?

Each resident's room has an individual recycling bin. Every residence hall has recycling bins for aluminum/plastic and paper on each floor. Newspaper recycling is provided in every classroom. Cardboard drop offs are located outside each building and glass is located at seven exterior sites around campus. If funding is available aluminum and plastic recycling bins may be set up in all large lobbies.

5. How are residents educated on issues of sustainability? When?

Through special presentations to groups (i.e. Hall Government, RHA, etc.), emphasis during orientation, and promotion during opening/closing periods of the academic year. Sustainability presentations to U101 classes and special lectures to environmental oriented classes. Addition of an environmental GA now provides training and lectures to RA's as well as promotion events, bulletin boards and advertising on Housing's cable channel. New handouts and brochures are being developed for arriving students to educate them on recycling, sustainability, and use of energy star products in their rooms. Housing has created position called the Coordinator of Student Learning Initiatives that will include sustainability programs such as a first year environmental studies program within the residence halls. Numerous programs are expected to develop with the opening of West Quad.

6. Are students permitted to use halogen-standing lamps in their dorm rooms?

Yes, provided a safety shield is utilized to prevent contact with bulb. Residents are encouraged to use Energy Star products in their rooms and new literature is being developed to help promote this.

7. How are hazardous materials stored and disposed? Ex. cleaning supplies

Through Health & Safety Services - staff pickup and dispose according to prescribed procedures. Housing is working to shift to entirely 'green' cleaning products in 2004.

8. Are refillable soap dispensers or hand dryers available in restroom facilities?

Some residence halls have hand dryers and refillable dispensers, but not everyone has one or both.

9. Are motion sensors or occupancy detectors currently in use?

Currently, use is limited. Use is increasing as new buildings and renovations happen.

10. What energy, water, or other conservation efforts have been made in the residence halls?

Front loading washers have been installed in all laundry areas, low energy lighting fixtures utilized in retrofitting, water reducing fixtures utilized. Timers used on exterior lighting. Only Energy Star rated products are purchased. These are all common practices now.

11. What initiatives has the department taken during the last year in order to achieve its sustainability goals?

Housing has implemented BEST (Business and Environmental Sustainability Techniques), which incorporates an EMS format that allow all of its procedures to follow the EMS outline. Housing intends to seek ISO 14001 certification in 2004.

12. Have any cost savings been realized from energy conservation plans in the residence halls? If so, how much?

Yes, hard to assign exact dollar amount under current University Energy plan. The new washers and dryers utilized by Housing save approximately 2 million gallons of water and \$20,000 per year.

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Conducted by: Karl Rains, Spring 2004