

“We Did That?!”: Engaging Students in Campus-Based Sustainability Projects



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Waste Audit: 24 Hours of Trash

61% could
have been
diverted



Objective:

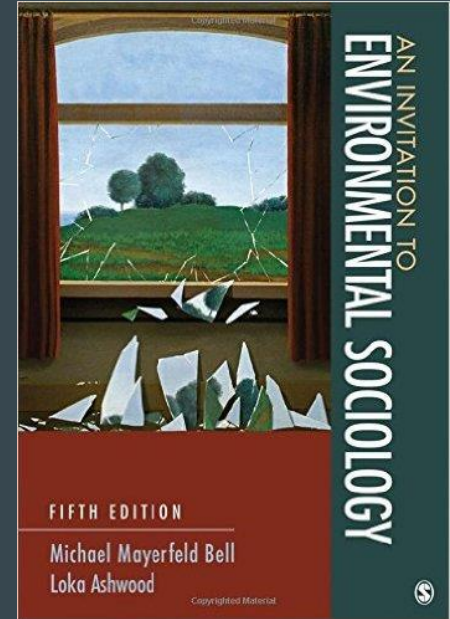
To change the social constitution of daily life at RCC to make it easy and convenient to live sustainably.

Sociological Tools:

Change institutional policies and norms

Change interactions and culture

Base changes on empirical evidence



Successful Project Examples

Waste Audit Inspired

Recycling bins

Installation of water

bottle refilling stations with
signage

Instructor Suggestion

Green Fee

Transportation survey

Divestment research



Successful Project Examples

Community Based

Anti-LNG activism

Bear Creek planting

Student Initiated

Green wall

Double-sided printing policy

Free Box



Rogue Community College

Student Freebox



"Consume less, Share better."

- Hervé Kempf



Rogue Community College

Student Freebox

"Consume less, Share better." -Hervé Kempf.

In our culture of abundance, less is really becoming more.

The concept of gift culture has developed in response to the heavy waste stream of industrialized nations.

Everything has to go somewhere, and it's estimated that the typical American throws away over 65 lbs of reusable clothing every year. The EPA reports over 11 million tons of textiles total are dumped in landfills annually.

Let us take steps toward diverting that one-way stream back into society.

Gift your unwanted, still usable clothing, shoes, and books to the Student Freebox. While you're there, take a look around for something interesting and new (to you).

Take what you want, leave what you don't.

"Property is not a thing, but a relationship between people about things."

-Gerald M. Sider

Student Lounge - Building G

Riverside Campus

Reduce! Reuse! Recycle! Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

Why?

- Culture of abundance in capitalist societies
- Perceived obsolescence and conspicuous wealth
- Wide acceptance of gifting and sharing culture
- Environmental effects of wastefulness vs reuse
- "Take, Make, Waste Economy" (Story of Stuff)
- Linear vs Cyclical Economies
- Planned obsolescence

Where?

- Establishing new social norms on campus
- Social acceptance of cyclical consumerism
- Central placement for wider acceptance
- Freebox stuff borne of Freebox stuff
- Information hub for other free items
- Free experiences, free engagement, free living



Who?

- Involvement and engagement of student body
- Outlining needs and desired outcomes
- Building community through reuse
- Changing social norms of acceptable forms of consumerism on-campus
- Cooperative learning experiences
- Concept of mutual aid
- Concept of conspicuous philanthropy

Rogue Community College

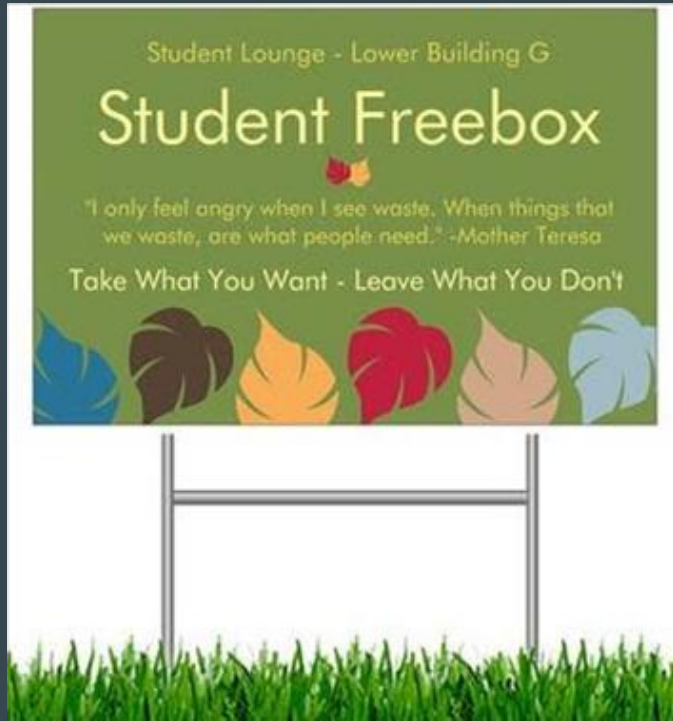
Student Freebox



- ~ Please donate only clean clothes, shoes, & books. No soiled, torn, or unusable items!
- ~ Use corkboard to share info on free things too big to donate, plus free events & activities!
- ~ Help keep things tidy! Sort your items!
- ~ Support the health of the Freebox!
- ~ Enjoy free stuff!



How?



- Effective branding and marketing
- Collaboration with other campus and student-run freeboxes nationwide
- Working with administration and enlisting students for longevity
- Recruitment for ongoing upkeep of Freebox
- Effective outreach for renewing inventory
- Developing measures of success
- Avoiding pitfalls of gift culture

Unsuccessful Project Examples

Institutional Limitations/Instructor
Error

Composting

Reusable mugs

Cafe packaging reduction

Rooftop garden

TRC transportation

Temporary/Limited Reach

Educational posters/fliers/websites

Student Limitations

Freebox publicity

What Works: Pedagogical Tools

Read past project papers

Student evaluation of their skills and learning objectives pre-project

Provide specific project options, encourage individual ideas, allow choice

Individualized assignments

Provide specific steps

Require check-ins

8-10 hours per project

What Works: Campus Relationships

Partnerships

A good relationship with Facilities

Instructor contact pre-student contact

Coach students on professional conduct & communications

Student-driven asks for resources

If you get 'no' the first time, ask again

Tie project proposals to larger college goals