**2023 Dump and Run: Overview and Final Report**

**Key Participants**

**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

**Facilities & Services, Transportation & Building Services**

Dan Hiser, Transportation & Waste Management Foreperson

Daphne Hulse, Zero Waste Coordinator

Shreya Mahajan, CEE Junior and Zero Waste Intern

Shawn Patterson, Automotive & Transportation Services Manager

Dominika Szal, CEE Junior and Zero Waste Intern

Pete Varney, Director of Transportation & Building Services

Sakshi Vaya, ESES Junior and Zero Waste Intern

**Facilities & Services, Capital Programs**

Sarthak Prasad, Sustainable Transportation Assistant

Morgan White, Associate Director of Sustainability, and Interim Director of Capital Programs

**University Housing and Dining Services**

Thurman Etchison, Assistant Director of Dining, Facilities and Equipment

Bryan Johnson, Project Manager

Mark Kuehl, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services

**Champaign-Urbana Community**

**Salt & Light**

Mike Jenkins, Director of Retail Operations

Bethany Parker, Retail Administrative Assistant

Lisa Sheltra, Director of Community Engagement

**Goodwill, Land of Lincoln**

Mike Gernand, Warehouse Supervisor

Tom King, Director of Logistics

Wally Proenza, VP Retail Operations

**University YMCA**

Marc Alexander, Director of Development and Membership

**Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) Chapter**

**“**The Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) defines “zero waste” as “the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.” In other words, the goods and services we purchase — and how we interact with

them — influences everything from the size of landfills to the release of harmful greenhouse gases (GHG). By investigating a resource’s life cycle (i.e., a “whole system” approach), we can minimize energy usage across all stages, from raw material extraction to transportation to waste disposal… A comprehensive behavioral shift for students, staff, faculty members, and visitors is integral to mitigating our waste stream. Our vision is to promote a zero-waste campus culture by empowering individuals and units to take responsibility for everything from purchasing to waste reduction. Actionable steps like providing education about “reduce, reuse, and recycle” concepts, clearly communicating best practices, and investing in our facilities (e.g., indoor and outdoor recycling bins) are vital to this process.”

– iCAP 2020

**iCAP Objectives**

Objective 5.2: “Reduce the total campus waste going to landfills from 5,049 tons in FY19 to 4,544 tons or less in FY24, which is a decrease of at least 10%.”

**Vision**

Between the days of May 8 and May 14, 2023, following the end of final exams, students who lived in on-campus accommodations moved out. Between 2012 and 2019, University YMCA collaborated with University Housing, with Facilities & Services assisting near the end of YMCA’s tenure. Each year students on campus have clothing, shoes, un-opened/non-perishable food, housing goods, and school supplies they no longer would like to keep. This program is especially important for U of I’s international population, who cannot bring their goods home. To divert good material away from the landfill and find reuse for it elsewhere in the community, the Dump and Run program was initiated to collect these goods. With the full-time Zero Waste Coordinator onboarded in September 2022, Facilities & Services took initiative to reignite the Dump and Run program in 2023, in coordination with University Housing.

**Background Context**

**Primary Goals of Dump and Run**

1. Achieving waste reduction goals, as outlined in the iCAP.
2. Creating a cost-effective program. It must make financial sense.
3. Strengthening town and gown relations. How can the university build its connection with the local community through this program?
4. Illustrating the benefits of a circular system. When YMCA led the program, items collected were held back for their August move-in sale.
5. Providing a learning opportunity for students. Create the habit for them to donate their items. Illuminate the scope of students’ consumption.

**Previous History with University YMCA**

Since 2001, University YMCA has used the name Dump and Run to identify the ongoing program to keep quality goods out of Champaign-Urbana’s dumpsters and landfills. Each year, University YMCA collects community-donated goods during the summer and holds a move-in sale near the end of August as University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students return for the fall semester.

In 2012, University Housing asked University YMCA to execute a collection during spring move-out at the undergraduate residence halls. Following the spring move-out collection, items were sorted and stored in trailers over the summer. Summer collections from the larger community continued as usual. The August move-in sale featured donations from both spring and summer. University YMCA and University Housing collaborated until the end of 2019.

University YMCA assessed the University Housing spring collection program and determined that their involvement was no longer necessary. Enough items are donated by the community during the summer to supply goods for the August move-in sale. With the onboarding of the full-time Zero Waste Coordinator at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Facilities & Services became the primary university unit organizing the spring move-out program, in collaboration with University Housing. Facilities & Services has maintained the name Dump and Run to identify the spring move-out collection but will no longer store items over the summer for YMCA’s move-in sale. Items collected will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

Henceforth, Dump and Run is a year-round program, with collections happening at least twice a year, with a spring collection led by Facilities & Services and a summer collection led by University YMCA.

**Planning & Executing**

**F&S Landing Page**

[F&S hosted the website where all advertisements were redirected](https://fs.illinois.edu/News/dump-and-run-expands-to-multiple-campus-locations/). The website hosted information regarding the following:

* A schedule for the event:
  + Dates for the event.
  + Times when the mobile storage units would be open for donations.
* A map of donation site locations:
  + Where the units were in relation to the residence halls.
* Accepted items:
  + A comprehensive list of what items would be acceptable to donate.
  + A note that all items procured through the university must be processed in accordance with state and U of I policies.

**Mobile Storage Units**

In previous years, YMCA and Housing relied on gaylords placed in residence hall lobbies. Boxes were supervised for overflow and the contents were removed when full. Feedback from YMCA and Housing indicated that the flow of operations was not ideal during the busy week of move out. In response, this year’s Dump and Run planning team decided to rent mobile storage units from [Stowaway Mobile Storage](https://www.stowawaymobile.com/) located in Monticello, IL. The 19’x8’ and 20’x8’ units were placed outside near residence halls the week before move out and picked up the week after move out. This allowed the activity to occur outside the residence halls, preventing items from overflowing in the residence hall lobbies. Inside the mobile storage units, the community partners placed gaylords and carts, for donations to be placed in.

A white container in front of a brick building

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Description automatically generated

*A 20’ x 8’ mobile storage unit, placed near the Student Dining and Residential Programs building.*

The units were locked and unlocked at specific times, advertised on the Dump and Run website. The F&S Transportation team unlocked the units in the morning, and placed the tables and chairs outside, nearby the containers for the volunteers. F&S Building Service Workers put away the tables and chairs and locked the units at night. Keyed-alike padlocks were used, so one key could be used for all eight locks.

**Direct Donation to the Local Community**

In previous years YMCA facilitated the collection, sorting, and redistribution of collected materials. Items donated in the spring would be held back during the summer for the August move-in sale. Although the circularity component was a benefit, the F&S and Housing ultimately decided that there was a lack of space and labor available to handle such an endeavor. Instead, the zero waste coordinator pursued direct donations to the local community. Goodwill and Salt & Light were chosen as the 2023 community partners, based on their interest and availability to pick up the donations in their vehicles.

In an effort to split donations among the two, Goodwill received hard items (decorations, small appliances) and Salt & Light received soft items (clothes, bedding, linens). Hard items were collected in the gaylord cardboard boxes, and soft items were collected in the rolling carts. Information indicating where donations should be placed was hung inside the mobile storage units. During the week of move out the community partners ran routes in their vehicles each day, picking up the donations and returning empty gaylords and carts to the mobile storage units. Goodwill could fit 3 gaylords in each of the units. The gaylords were roughly 4’x3.5’. Salt & Light could fit 3 or 4 carts in each of the units. The carts were 5’6” tall, 2’4” deep, and 3’ wide.

A picture containing waste container, box, indoor, container

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* A picture containing text, handwriting, post-it note, receipt

  Description automatically generatedA picture containing text, material property, post-it note, wall

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*Inside the mobile storage units: 3 gaylords placed on the right and 3-4 carts placed on the left. Above each gaylord and cart was the associated information, indicating what was allowed to be donated. Soft items and hard items were separated.*

**Results**

F&S’ scale was broken during Dump and Run 2023, so estimates were utilized for the weight results. As a note, spring collections have not taken place since 2019 pre-pandemic, so students have not had recurring years of Dump and Run events to remember and plan for the event. As we continue to maintain this program and expand, F&S and Housing aim to build off the results listed below.

A picture containing container, box, carton, cardboard

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A picture containing household supply, paper towel, indoor, sink

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A picture containing car, luggage, case, indoor

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*Donations throughout the week.*

**Goodwill Collections & Feedback**

An estimated 16,280 pounds of household items were collected. Goodwill observed the following locations were most successful:

* Hopkins Hall
* Student Dining and Residential Programs Building
* Illinois Street Residence Hall
* FAR-PAR Halls

Goodwill observed the following locations were less successful:

* Wassaja Hall
* Weston Hall
* Busey-Evans Halls

Allen Residence Hall did okay. Weston Hall could not be accessed after 5pm. Gregory Drive consistently had a lot of vehicles in the way, which prevented access to the Wassaja location. Goodwill suspects the number of vehicles in the area also prevented students from noticing that the donation site was there. Busey-Evans seemed far away from entrances, which is why it may not have done as well. Goodwill is excited about the thought of expansion.

Breakdown of collections:

The total number of gaylords was 51.  By day:

* Monday, May 8th: 0
* Tuesday, May 9th: 2
* Wednesday, May 10th: 6
* Thursday, May 11th: 6
* Friday, May 12th: 18
* Saturday, May 13th: 12
* Monday, May 15th: 7

“We also collected 95 loose items that were not placed in gaylords and we put them on pallets. Friday was the big donation day for loose items as well. We had 23 pallets total. We have 39 mini-fridges and 17 miscellaneous electronics (like lamps, microwaves, and TVs). There were also 39 items of miscellaneous things like sofas, chairs, bicycles. storage bins, etc. Some of these items are also in gaylords, this is just what was on the floor of the containers.”

**Salt & Light Collections & Feedback**

An estimated 3,500 pounds of soft items were collected. They are interested in continuing to work as a donation partner for future years. Expansion of the program would be to their benefit. They would appreciate the allowance to collect hard items, too. The zero waste coordinator and Salt & Light agreed that it would make most sense to split locations between nonprofits rather than types of items collected. They are pleased with an agreement that allows them to collect all items.

**Facilities & Services Feedback**

* Utilizing outdoor mobile storage units made the operation much easier on the transportation team.
* Expansion with the program makes sense – there are more community members who could be serviced during this time. Housing would need to agree for expansion to take place.
* Once the F&S scale is back up and running, donation acceptors should stop by the scale to get accurate weights on their pickups before they drop it back off to their warehouses.
* Including “unaccepted items” would also be helpful!