

**REPORT ON RECYCLING IN RESPONSE TO  
FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION OF FEBRUARY 7, 1990**

1) Paper products the University buys are all on State of South Carolina contracts. The kinds of paper and vendor supplying the paper are described in the material attached. The Materials Management Office of the State handles the paper acquisition for all State agencies. This office is including an option in all of their paper bids for recycled paper. To date one bid has been received which was for thermal paper. No vendor has at this date proposed using recycled paper.

New paper is considerably cheaper than recycled paper and state contracts are awarded in most cases on the most inexpensive bid. (See attached information for costs).

The Material Management Office of the State is interested in the use of recycled paper for state agencies. As USC must procure paper through MMO, the University must rely on this office to secure a contract for recycled paper.

2) Recycling is currently being done on a limited basis at the University by some colleges, departments, and individuals. As a University effort several categories of recycling are possible. The paper category would include cardboard, newsprint, ledger paper - yellow or white, and computer paper. The glass category includes clear, white, green, or brown recycled glass containers. The aluminum can category would include drink or food cans. There is also a plastics category to include milk jugs, plastic bottles, cups, etc.

Prices for recycled products varies and fluctuates each week. The price of newsprint may be \$3.00 to \$4.00 one week, \$8.00 to

\$10.00 another week and still \$12.00 to \$15.00 another week.

The current incentive in the State of South Carolina for recycling is not strong. For example, trash haulers only pay \$10.00 per ton at South Carolina landfills. This compares to \$25.00 per ton in Charlotte, North Carolina or as high as \$50.00 per ton in Florida or \$175.00 per ton in the Boston area. Why recycle when trash dumping is so inexpensive?

The University has asked the Browning-Ferris Industries Company to do an analysis of the University's waste stream. BFI will study the amount of waste USC generates and how feasible it would be to attempt a University wide recycling program.

A preliminary meeting with BFI officials indicates that it would be possible to do a cost analysis to show what costs are involved, what equipment would be needed, what collection procedures would be provided and other considerations for a recycling program.

BFI has been asked to begin this study as soon as possible. The program offered by BFI, should their program be utilized, is explained along with other BFI information in the attached booklet. BFI has requested time to study the recycling potential of the campus and will make a report back to the University.

The University has asked that the report address the issues of collection of materials, separation of collected materials, collection points, how much return to the University, and what this company will do to assist in the University's recycling program. The administration will assist BFI in this study.

3) Where feasible the University is encouraging the need of biodegradable products to decrease the use of materials that cannot be recycled. The University Dining Services is attempting to use products that can be recycled. Where possible, other services on campus are being encouraged to do the same.

4) With an increased awareness of recycling, perhaps individual awareness will be more prevalent so that the University community will decrease the total volume of waste. This last issue may be best treated in some sort of campaign coupled with publicity about a recycling plan.

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March 7, 1990