

## Additional Recycling Bins for area outside Piazanos

### **Basic Organizational Information**

We are students in Dr. Lisa Barlow's Campus and The Biosphere course, ENVS 3001. Our group is committed to several projects that aim to create a more sustainable campus environment. The focus of this semester's group is the second phase of the Grab-n-Go packaging efforts.

### **Primary Contact Person**

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### **Project Description**

This project will improve the recycling capacity that is available outside of the Cheyenne Arapaho Residence Hall. Piazanos Grab-n-Go, situated in Cheyenne Arapaho Hall, serves approximately 2500 take-out meals a day. Drinks, corrugated pizza boxes, aluminum trays, and aluminum foil from these meals are recyclable on campus. There are many well-labeled recycling bins inside of the Cheyenne Arapaho lounge; however just outside the building there are three trash bins and no recycling bins. With warmer spring weather on the way, and next fall soon to follow, we foresee many students choosing to eat outdoors on the grassy slopes of Cheyenne Arapaho, or close-by in Farrand Field. In order to prevent students from throwing recyclables in the trash, we need to make recycling options as accessible as possible. Therefore we propose the installation of two new recycling bins directly outside the building in a visible location. One of the bins would be designated for co-mingled containers, including aluminum trays and foil, and the other for corrugated cardboard pizza boxes. It is very important that the new bins are more clearly labeled than the existing bins around campus. We will work with Esti Karo from Downs and Associates, our local liaison to our national receptacle vendor, Victor Stanley, to issue the new bins with clearer labels. The co-mingled contained bin would be labeled "Co-Mingled Containers and Aluminum" as opposed to the current "Cans & Bottles" label that is in use, and the cardboard bin would be labeled "Pizza Boxes" to prevent students from filling the bin with large boxes from their rooms.

### **Project Scope & Timeline**

The two recycling bins would comply with the CU standard of Victor Stanley SD-42 Standard Black bins. Each bin has a 36-gallon capacity and a side-opening door for trash removal. The cost for two bins and the associated installation cost would be no greater than \$3000, which is the amount of funding requested from Sustainable CU.

The implementation timeline for this project is planned to be as follows:

March - Finalize new labeling and order with Downs and Assoc.  
- Place order

May-June - Recycling bins arrive and are installed on campus

June-August - Recycling bins are first put to use during summer term

This project will be and organized by students Elena Pellicer and Erik Burns along with their class advisor, Dr. Lisa Barlow. We are also working with Alan Nelson from the Department of Facilities Management, Manuel Garcia from Housing and Dining Services, and Esti Karo from Downs and Associates to complete specific components of the projects. Emplacement of the receptacles will be done by CU staff under the supervision of Alan Nelson and Manuel Garcia.

### Detailed Project Budget

SD-42 Standard Black Side-door Trash Receptacles	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2 Trash Receptacles	\$2,000
Cement base installation	\$ 200
Shipping and Handling	\$ 400
<b>Total</b>	<b>~ \$2,600</b>

### Environmental Impact:

Recycling has many environmentally friendly aspects. It reduces the amount of waste that is put into landfills, saves energy, conserves resources, reduces pollution and saves money. The placement of new recycling bins outside of the Piazanos Grab-n-Go would have significant environmental benefits. One of the environmental goals outlined in the Blueprint for a Green Campus is to create a “waste free campus” and another is to double the recycling diversion rates of the campus. By installing recycling bins in what is a popular, high traffic eating area, we can create new opportunities to move towards our goal of a “waste free campus.” Also, the new recycling bins would help increase recycling diversion rates. One of the appealing aspects of the Piazanos Grab-n-Go venue is that the staff has made efforts to convert much of the packaging to materials that are recyclable on campus, meaning there is the potential for the amount of waste produced from the venue to be greatly reduced. Our proposal of putting recycling bins outside Cheyenne Arapaho Hall would give students easier access to a location where they can conveniently recycle their waste. As the popularity of the Piazanos Grab-n-Go increases, so does the opportunity for students to recycle and for the campus to become more environmentally friendly.

### Quality of Life:

Our project enhances the educational experience of students on campus by encouraging them to take part in something they may not have been involved in before. Many students who do not recycle are not against it; rather they just haven’t been exposed to it before. If we were to put recycling bins in an area where many students eat, they would see the bins and be reminded to recycle. This is not a singular event either, if

students frequently visit Piazanos and are constantly reminded to recycle, this behavior will begin to take place in other parts of their lives and hopefully they will become more and more environmentally conscious. Our project does not only benefit the lives of students on campus, it also benefits the entire campus community. It helps out the environment, gets people actively engaged, and is a respectful behavior that others visiting the campus will see and admire.

**Saving Money:**

Recycling is not only good for the environment, it can also save money. Piazanos sells many drinks in aluminum cans; aluminum is a high value recyclable material, which currently can only be thrown in the trash outside of Cheyenne Arapahoe Hall. If we were to offer aluminum recycling, we could be making money back on each can. If a larger portion of the waste produced by Piazanos were to be recycled, it would also mean there would be less general garbage accumulated, and therefore less money spent on waste management.

**Project Longevity:**

Our proposal of placing new recycling bins outside Cheyenne Arapaho Hall will require very minimal upkeep and has the potential to last many years. Management of the cans will become part of Grounds operations. Hopefully, if students see that we have been successful in our proposal, they will be inspired to make improvements of their own.

**Social and Environmental Equity and Justice:**

Our project will hopefully inspire other students to take action themselves, especially those who have not been as environmentally active in the past. If students see that it is possible to make a positive impact on campus, they may wish to become involved as well. Our project is not the first of its kind and it is certainly not complex or revolutionary. It is, however, the continuation of a larger movement. We are students who have seen others take action and been inspired to take action ourselves. We hope that our project has a positive environmental impact, but we also hope that it influences our peers and everyone on campus to become part of the solution. It is a small piece in a much larger effort and hopefully it will help to spread the word of taking action and being more environmentally friendly.