

Mini-bin Waste Collection Pilot Project

We are piloting a new waste collection process in Dorsey Center. There will be some changes associated with this program, and your participation and feedback will be greatly appreciated!



Please contact Matt Harmin (ext. 3035, or matthew.harmin@goucher.edu) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

This program will help us reduce the amount of recyclable waste that ends up in the landfill, and help us make the most of our custodial staff time. It is a change in our waste management process. Custodial staff will no longer go from office to office emptying trash and recycling. Rather, folks in their offices will take trash and recycling to central collection points in the hallways, which custodial staff will then service on a regular basis.





Goucher College Mini-bin FAQ

- **Why are we changing to these mini-bins?** Doing this pilot project in Dorsey Center makes sense for a few reasons. It will allow us to manage our custodial labor more efficiently, conserve our resources by using fewer can liners, and help everyone participate in our overall waste reduction efforts. We will work together to find the right system and process for the mini-bins so that we can establish this program in other administrative and faculty office spaces.
- **Why do we need this program at all?** What is the point? Waste audits show that there is a significant amount of recyclable waste ending up in the garbage. With modest adjustments the waste diversion rate in Dorsey could be well over 60%. Utilizing these mini-bins should help us do that, because there is simply no space in the trash for recyclable items.
- **Where should I take my trash and recycling?** In your building there are multiple central waste stations in hallway or foyer areas. Please choose the one that is most convenient for you.
- **Do I really have to empty out my own garbage?** The short answer is yes. Your mini-bin may only need to be emptied once or twice per week, so it should not be overly inconvenient, and can be done at any of the times you would leave your desk during the course of your work.
- **What about food and other organic waste, won't it make a mess or start to smell in these mini-bins with no can liners?** It is advisable that you dispose of organics/food waste in the central waste stations in the hallways of your building. Taking waste from lunch directly to the central waste stations is the best way to avoid this potential problem.



Goucher College Mini-bin FAQ

- **The Mini-bin is so small, how can I possibly fit all my trash in it?** Odds are the vast majority of the waste generated in your office is recyclable and the amount of actual trash is negligible, so the mini-bin should be big enough.
- **Where is the liner for my mini-bin?** Bin liners are simply another form of trash, and reducing our use of liners will save the college a considerable amount of money over time.
- **If I find that I am recycling more, and want a larger recycling receptacle, what should I do?** Perhaps you are finding the waste-basket sized recycling container inadequate. If so, we can ensure that you receive a larger tote sized recycling container. Please reach out to Matt Harmin (ext. 3035 or matthew.harmin@goucher.edu) if this is the case.
- **I'm skeptical, is there any proof this program will measurably increase our recycling rates?** Similar programs have proven themselves effective for waste reduction in other institutions. A follow up waste audit will confirm this for us. We are seeking to make participation in this program as convenient as possible, and remove any barriers to participation. Please reach out to Matt Harmin with any concerns.
- **What should I do if I find I am generating a high amount of waste and this system is insufficient for me?** Perhaps you periodically generate large amounts of waste in the course of your work, or perhaps special events that you are responsible for cause waste generation that exceeds the capacity of this program and causes a large inconvenience. If those circumstances can be anticipated please reach out to me beforehand and we can develop a plan together to meet your needs.



Goucher College Mini-bin FAQ

- **How will we know if this mini-bin program is working as intended?** This will be clear after conducting another follow up waste audit. We will also be looking for feedback from Dorsey Center occupants to ensure that this program meets everyone's needs.
- **How will I know what is recyclable and what is garbage?** Accompanying this letter is a comprehensive guide put together by Republic Services, our waste hauler, explaining in detail what is recyclable. Please refer to that, and contact Matt Harmin (ext. 3035 or matthew.harmin@goucher.edu) if you have any questions.
- **My desk does not have space for this mini-bin, where am I meant to put it?** It should be able to hang conveniently from the edge of your waste-basket sized recycling container.
- **What if I don't want to participate in the mini-bin program?** The mini-bin program has been adopted by senior administrators at the college because it is a legitimate way for us to reduce waste, reduce costs and manage our custodial labor more efficiently. Custodial staff will no longer go from office to office emptying trash, and so ultimately you will wind up emptying your own trash regardless of what bin you use. I would humbly request that you at least give this a shot, and give me the opportunity to work together with you to find a way to make this viable and convenient for you. Please reach out to Matt Harmin (ext. 3035 or matthew.harmin@goucher.edu) with any concerns or questions.
- **The mini-bin is fine, but the lid is inconvenient for me.** If you find yourself not wanting to use the lid, just reach out to me and I will come get it.