

SUSTAINABILITY

Morgan Library Sustainability Committee Newsletter

March 2016

The Sustainability Lunch and Learns are continuing with the first one for 2016 happening in April! Save the date for April 12th 11:30-12:30pm in the Event Hall. For this LnL we will be visited by the City of Fort Collins to learn about their WorkWise Challenge, and things you can do at home to improve your sustainability. They will bring kits with lightbulbs, shower heads, and other conservation items for everyone who wants to attend.

We will also be joined by the Larimer County Conservation Corps to learn about their assessment programs and how they can help you conserve at home.

A registration form for this event will be sent out via email later this week.



Photo by [wester](#). CC BY-NC-ND

Did You Know?

There is a “new” Colorado Rain-Barrel Bill in process.

House Bill 16-1005 was introduced to the House on January 13th of this year.

This bill is an amended version of the bill that was tabled last year. There is still a fair amount of disagreement, but this years version is looking like it will be voted on. Eventually.

We shall see what happens. It has been interesting to follow along with the saga of the Colorado Rain-Barrel!

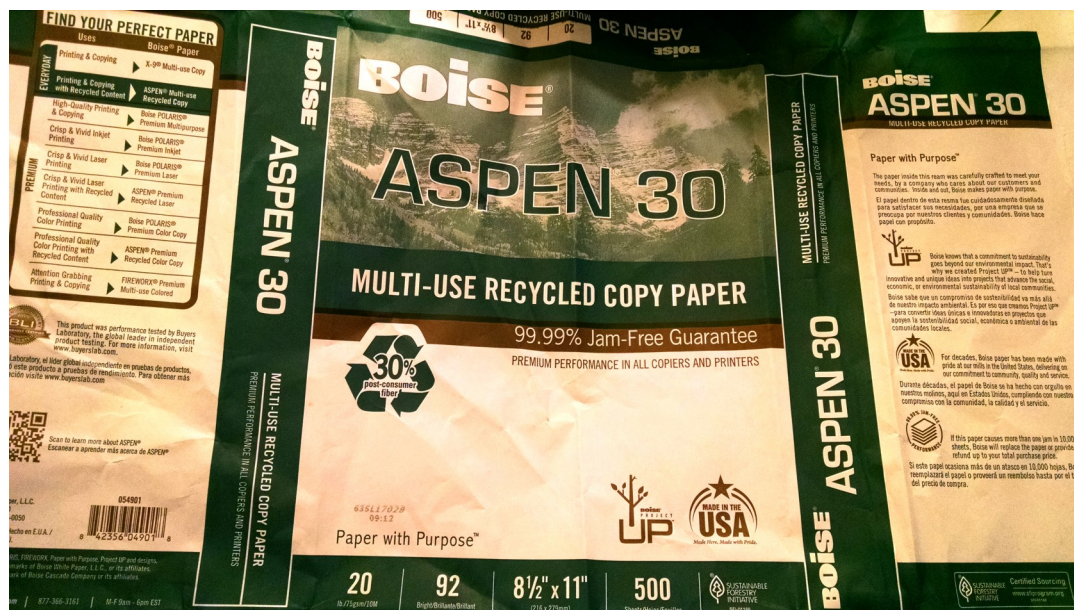


More on Recycling

By Neyda Gilman

Ever since I started getting more involved in sustainability here at CSU, I have been continually surprised. I have had many positive surprises —such as all the awards CSU has won and the practices that are, and have been for years, in place to promote sustainability. However I have had some not so good surprises as well. Most of these are things I have learned about recycling. It isn't as easy a concept as I had once thought. Remember the coffee cups? I still have to remind myself that they are not recyclable. Recently I learned that the packaging of our printer/copy paper isn't recyclable either. The paper packaging. This is because of the moisture resistant lining of the paper that is meant to protect bundle of paper. I was once the person who would remove these from the trash and put them into the recycling bin. Now I am removing them from the recycling bin back to the trash. I am still unsure as to why items such as this packaging and coffee cups are not recyclable, but milk and juice cartons are. My guess is it has to do with the type of lining.

This is the packaging I am talking about:



I had also always been a fan of single stream recycling, thinking that it made recycling easier for people and that ease would increase the likelihood of people recycling. All of that is true; it is easier for individuals to recycle with single stream. It also makes it so that more people recycle more. However, it also means that there is more contamination. It also means, that at least here in FoCo, glass doesn't get recycled in the way most of us imagine. The single-stream process often results in glass breaking which makes the separation for proper recycling more difficult. Instead, the glass pieces are used as landfill cover. You can still make sure glass is recycled into other products by taking your glass directly to the City Recycling Drop-Off Facility (<http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/dropoff.php#seven>).

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The bottom line is that recycling is a good thing and we should all continue to recycle. We just need to realize that it is complicated and not a perfect solution. In addition to recycling our products we should continue trying to learn more about the process. We should also try to remember the other two R's in the three R's. Reduce and Reuse. Recycling is our best option after reducing and reusing.

Have you learned something about recycling that surprised you? Let us know and we can share the knowledge!



We have a FreeCycle box in the staff break room on the second floor. So far this has been used mostly for books, which is great! Do you have other items you no longer want but think others could use? If you can't reuse something, but think someone else can, put it in the box!

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about what we are doing, to suggest ideas, or suggest a guest writer.

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