



# **Reduce, Reuse Recycle REVEALED**

**Recycling at KU  
Mythbusting  
On the Trail of a Killer**

## Recycling at KU



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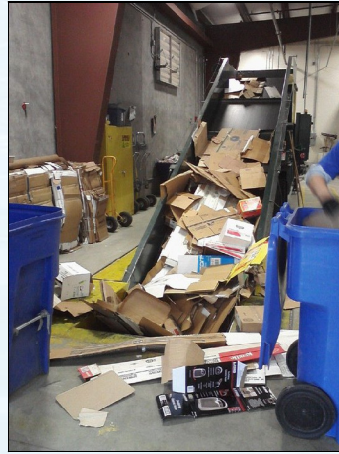
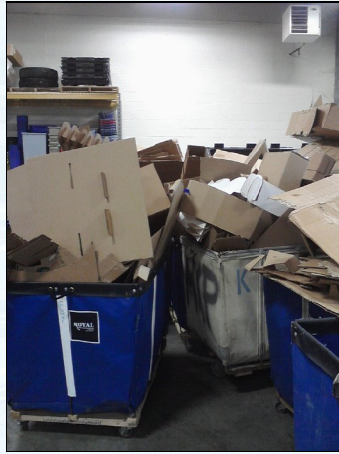


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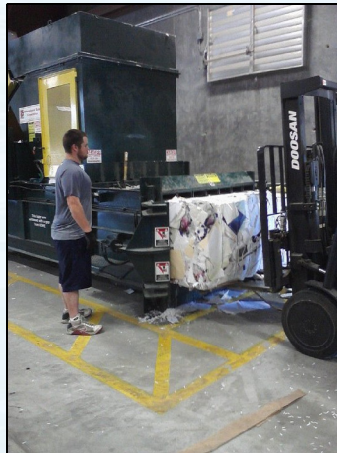
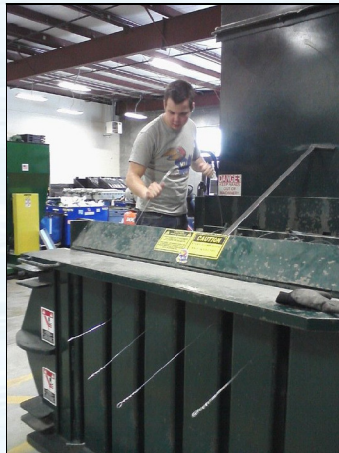




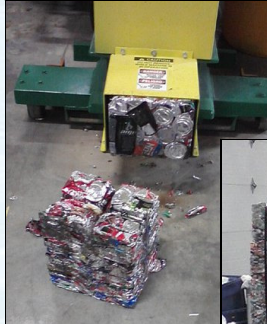
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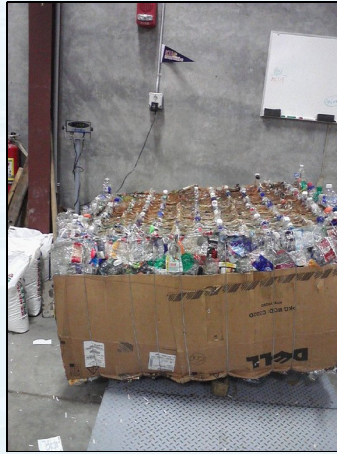
## Recycling at KU



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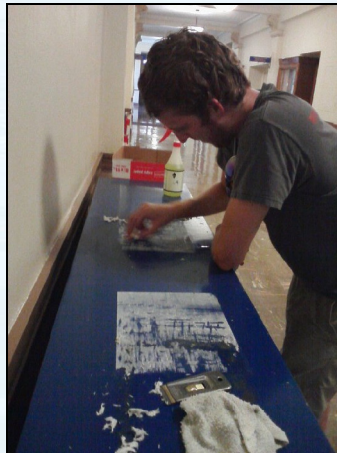




# Recycling at KU



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## Recycling Mythbusting





## Recycling Mythbusting

- We have to recycle because we are running out of landfill space.



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According to the National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA), the United States has about 20 years of disposal capacity left in existing landfills. There are, however, places where space is getting tight: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Rhode Island all have less than five years capacity, and the northeastern part of the country in general has the least available landfill space.

## Recycling Mythbusting

- The trucks that collect recycling burn more energy and produce more pollution than recycling saves

**BUSTED**



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A recent study found that it takes 10.4 million Btu to manufacture products from a ton of recyclables, compared to 23.3 million Btu for virgin materials. In contrast, the total energy for collecting, hauling and processing a ton of recyclables adds up to just 0.9 million Btu. The bottom line: We don't need to worry that recycling trucks are doing more harm than good

## Recycling Mythbusting

- Thanks to the sky high prices

**BUSTED**



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OCC = \$104.65 per ton

Softbound books = \$50 per ton

HDPE (milk jugs ) = \$240

Magazines = \$240

Mixed paper = \$50

Newspaper = \$71.25

PET = \$180

Comingled plastic = \$20

OP = \$117

Aluminum = .50 lb

Steel = \$180 ton

43 tons = <\$7000



## Recycling Mythbusting

- Recycling doesn't cost more.

**BUSTED**



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With recycling, 20% more wood will need to be harvested by 2010 to keep up with demand.

Without recycling, 80% more wood would need to be harvested.

95% of our nation's virgin forests have been cut down and less than 20% of paper manufactured in the U.S. comes from tree farms.

It takes 95% less energy to recycle aluminum than it does to make it from raw materials. Making recycled steel saves 60%, recycled newspaper 40%, recycled plastics 70%, and recycled glass 40%.

Recycling prevents habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity, and soil erosion associated with logging and mining.



## Recycling Mythbusting

- All the paper, plastic, metal and glass that is dumped in recycling bins has to be painstakingly (and extremely slowly) sorted by hand

**PLAUSIBLE**



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Insert KU prices here

## Recycling Mythbusting

- Most of the plastic put in recycling bins and put in the ground

**BUSTED**

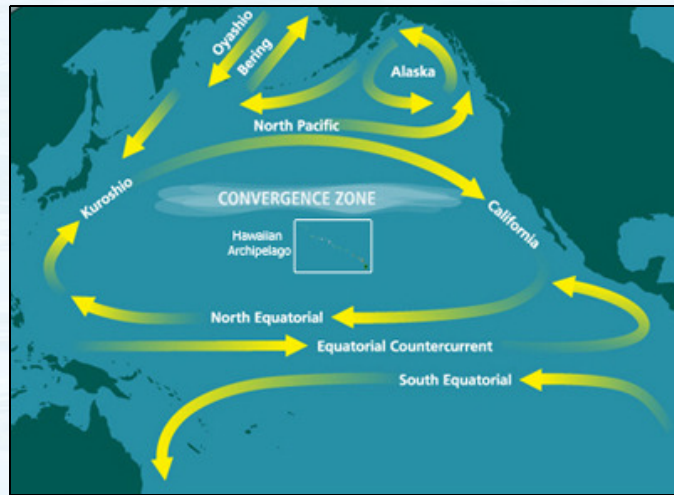


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Used to, but not so much now.

KU accepts #1-#7, and even if there's no # on it, we can still ship it off as "mixed."

## On the Trail of a Killer



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The Kuroshio ocean current runs in an almost direct path from Japan's east coast over to North America, passing right by the islands of Haida Gwaii.

## On the Trail of a Killer

### TSUNAMI MOTORCYCLE TO BE PRESERVED BY H-D MUSEUM



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Experts estimate more than 1.5 million tonnes of tsunami debris was swept out to sea and is now drifting across the Pacific Ocean toward Canada's West Coast.

Until now only bottles, buoys and other small items have washed ashore, but one unmanned fishing boat was sunk by the U.S. coast guard before it reached the West Coast of Alaska last month.

The 630lb motorcycle will be housed at the museum, as a tribute to those that died in the tsunami.



## On the Trail of a Killer



©Peter Bennett

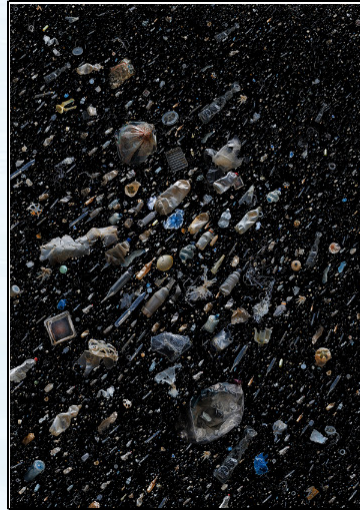
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If a motorcycle can make it across the Pacific Ocean,  
what can a plastic bottle do?

## On the Trail of a Killer



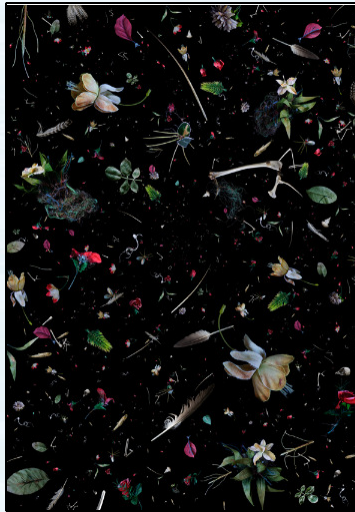
Mandy Barker, photographer



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I've facilitated the gathering, sorting, baling and reselling of over a million pounds of recyclable material in my time at KU Recycling. That's about 702 tons of bottles, cans, paper, cardboard, plastic... stuff. The Great Pacific Gyre contains about 58 tons of stuff, but consider this: Most of the garbage patch is not visible to the naked eye because it contains particles almost too small to see.

## On the Trail of a Killer



Ponder that. 58 tons of stuff so small it can barely be seen.



## On the Trail of a Killer



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Now- you might think "Big whoop. If the stuff is so tiny, what's the problem?" Well, think about what a whale eats. Think about what seabirds eat. Think about what would happen to you if you ingested tiny bits of plastic every time you ate. Plastic you can't digest, plastic that may still be outgassing. You'd eventually be killed by it, right? Well, so are the whales, so are the birds, so are the fish, so are the plants... This island is a killer.



## Midway Journey

## On the Trail of a Killer



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So what can you do about it?

At KU, we get that question all the time. It's a huge question, a huge problem, seemingly insurmountable. So what's the ONE THING?

Refuse single-use plastic. And the easiest way to start with that is reusable water bottles.

KU Recycling processes about 1200lbs of #1 PET bottles every two weeks. That's the equivalent of 14,400 16oz water bottles. Seems like a lot? Do we feel good about it?

Consider this- in a waste audit on Jayhawk Blvd- there was TWICE the amount of PET in the trash as there was in the recycling bins.

There's still room for improvement.

Plastic Gets There First  
(edited for time)