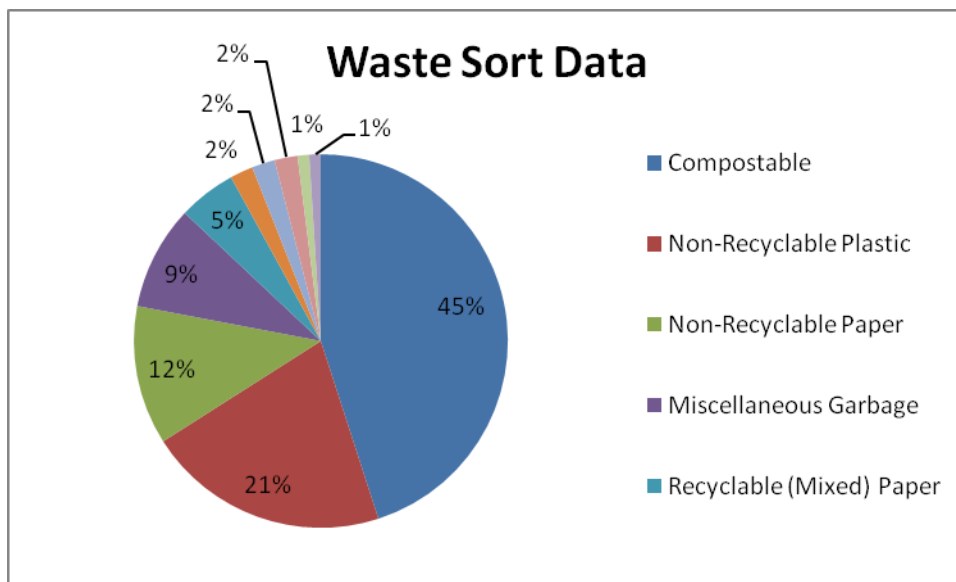


Summary of MN Wastewise Wastestream Analysis Report
February, 2010

In February, 2010, MN Wastewise, with the assistance of the 2010 Environmental Studies Senior Seminar students, performed a waste assessment and waste sort to determine the current state of waste generation on campus. The Wastewise staff and senior seminar students walked through campus buildings and visually assessed the state of the waste bins. In addition, sample trash bags from each campus dumpster were sorted and weighed.

The waste sort results showed that 45% of the waste stream was commercially compostable. Non-recyclable plastic (21%), non-recyclable paper (12%), garbage bags (2%), and miscellaneous garbage (9%) comprised 41% of the waste stream. Materials that were recyclable made up 10% of the waste stream. These materials included recyclable paper (5%), plastic (2%), cardboard (2%) and recyclable cans (1%). Potentially recyclable materials with a current market included plastic film (1%).

Waste Sort Data:	Percentage	Weight (pounds)
Compostable	45%	61.94
Non-Recyclable Plastic	21%	29.05
Non-Recyclable Paper	12%	16.66
Miscellaneous Garbage	9%	12.46
Recyclable (Mixed) Paper	5%	6.6
Garbage Bags (Clear)	2%	3.3
Recyclable Plastic (1,2)	2%	2.82
Cardboard (OCC)	2%	2.33
Aluminum & Tin Containers	1%	1.78
Recyclable Plastic Bags and Film	1%	1.36



Discussion Highlights:

- The results show a 27% increase in capture of the percentage of recyclable materials from the last baseline waste sort done by Eureka Recycling in 2006 (37% to 10%).
- A large percentage of the waste stream could be commercially composted, if this option were currently available.
- A large amount of paper towels were included in the waste stream. This waste could be avoided by installing hand dryers in the busiest restrooms on campus.

Recommendations include:

- Creating a Macalester specific definition of Zero Waste
- Focusing on waste prevention, then reuse and recycling
- Continuing working on paper reduction, particularly of paper towels
- Reducing the number of plastic garbage bags used
- After promoting reusable bags, offer a plastic bag recycling program
- Improving recycling bin consistence and placement
- Implementing and enforce a campus-wide preferable purchasing policy
- Requiring campus-wide participation in environmentally preferable purchasing

The full report is available to members of the Macalester College community from the Sustainability Office. Please contact sustainability@macalester.edu or call 651-696-8138.

Report Follow-up

The 2010 Senior Seminar used this data to inform their group projects. Reports can be found on the student projects page [link: <http://www.macalester.edu/environmentalstudies/students/projects/projects.htm>]. The Zero Waste Committee will be reviewing the recommendations of this report and the students' recommendations in the summer and fall of 2010.