



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
GREEN BAY

May 27, 2014

To: AASHE STARS

From: John Arendt, Associate Director, Environmental Management and Business Institute (EMBI)

Re: Plastic Film Recycling Pilot Program

In Spring 2014, the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay launched a pilot program designed to collect #2 and #4 clean, dry plastic film for recycling. With the assistance of a past EMBI intern who now works with Zeus Recycling, the company agreed to partner with the University to pilot a collection program. The company provided two of their patented baler systems for the plastic film at no charge, provided training on separating out the various types of plastic, and agreed to pick-up the plastic bales when a pallet was full (12 bales). In addition, they would pay the University approximately 4 cents per pound for the material.

A new EMBI intern working on his certificate in sustainability took on the task of developing the program, including determining collection methodology, coordinating collections, sorting and baling the collections, and supporting the promotion of the program. Approximately 11 collection bins were strategically placed across campus in high traffic areas, with the goal of ease of access for those bringing in plastic film for recycling.

As of the end of the semester, over 20 bales of #2 and #4 plastic film had been collected – that's approximately 800 pounds of plastic diverted from the landfill and going for recycling into items such as plastic lumber or new plastic bags. Because of the quick adoption by the campus community of adding this recycling stream to the others already in place, the plastic film collection program will become a permanent program. A student organization has taken over management of the program and student government will buy one of the balers for campus usage, allowing additional students to be exposed to and participate in making their campus and community a little greener.

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