

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

September 14, 2012

To whom it may concern,

NYC residents throw away approximately 200,000 tons of clothes, towels, blankets, curtains, shoes, handbags, belts, and other textiles each year. For over a decade, Columbia has tried to capture items from students upon their moving out, but there existed a greater need to have an on-going option to collect textiles throughout the year.

In 2007, Columbia University began hosting textile recycling bins throughout campus. Partnered with Wearable Collections, wearable and non-wearable (torn, ripped, stained but clean) clothing can be dropped off at several locations throughout the Morningside and Medical Center campuses.

In 2012, re-fashioNYC- a partnership between the City of New York and Housing Works- began an agreement with Columbia University to host clothing collection bins in some Columbia University faculty, staff, and graduate apartment buildings.

For all bins, items that can be dropped off include: clothing, shoes, bedding, handbags, belts, stockings, and fabric scraps. Textiles that can be re-used are sent to Housing Works or the Salvation Army. Items that are no longer usable, are pulped and recycled into new products.

The University was one of the first to partner with Wearable Collections which was significant due to the high volume of non-desirable textiles that are now able to be captured for recycling. Columbia's initiative to help divert textiles as waste to landfill is important, while many campuses have held clothing drives or collections for reuse for years, textile recycling is a newer, innovative concept.

Respectfully,



Cathy Resler  
Manager, Environmental Stewardship  
Columbia University