

To Whom it May Concern,

The College of the Atlantic “Stuff Removal Program” is an innovative move out program operated by the COA Discarded Resources Team which aids students, faculty, and staff with repurposing or recycling bulky miscellaneous items during and, especially, at the end of the academic year.

The program, instituted in 2015, was created to ensure that unwanted items are dealt with in the most sustainable way possible, with the trash being the absolute last resort. The successful program was responsible for 3,040 lbs of material donated to Goodwill during the 2016-17 academic year.

Stuff Removal encourages COA community members to be responsible environmental stewards by presenting an option to throwing their things in a trash bin, especially at the end of spring term when students are moving out, often to out-of-state locations, and must consolidate their belongings. Where it is typical on a college campus to see overflowing metal trash receptacles full of furniture and other reusable and recyclable items, at COA it is now typical to see a crew of Stuff Removal students showing up with a full-size pickup to give said items a new life.

Stuff Removal at COA has a direct effect on the environment by reducing waste and benefiting the COA campus culture of sustainability. The inclusion of the Discarded Resources crew in campus life helps spread awareness of issues like waste, recycling, repurposing, and the environmental consequences of a consumer culture. Work-study students working directly with the students of the Discarded Resources Club to gain direct, hands-on knowledge of attitudes about waste and the work necessary to keep items out of the landfill, while also helping to spread awareness and education on the issue.

This program is one of about 40 move out programs that PLAN has in establishment and/or growth, collectively diverting hundreds of tons of material during move out session. We believe that these programs are essential in changing the system of disposal during move out and changing the culture of waste on college and university campuses.

Onward & Upward,

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