



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MARION

DATE: October 2013
TO: AASHE Stars
FROM: Maryjo Munday, Human Resource Manager, The Ohio State University at Marion
RE: Zero Waste Program: The Ohio State University at Marion partnership with Marion Correctional Institute.

The Ohio State University at Marion is committed to innovative approaches to enhance waste reduction practices on campus. In May 2013, the Marion Campus (The Ohio State University at Marion and Marion Technical College) conducted a two-week pilot program that will hopefully serve as a foundation for future campus waste reduction operations. Marion campus partnered with Marion Correctional Institute (MCI) and Sims Brothers, Inc., (a local recycling and scrap processing company), to carry out this program.

During the two-week period, MCI audited 3,545 pounds of campus trash/recyclables and found that at least 89.1% of the material generated by the campus was recyclable. This suggests the Marion campus is an excellent candidate for a continuing sustainability program, since 90% is considered to be "zero waste". Working with MCI would be a win-win arrangement. The inmates of the correctional institution would engage in a meaningful weekly work project and the Marion Campus would benefit from the cost-effective recycling service.

This pilot project supports the Marion Campus' effort to continue moving forward with the strategic goal to increase the sustainability of campus operations and the environmental consciousness of its students, faculty and staff.

Currently Marion Campus senior administrative staff are discussing cost-effective ways to have the trash/recyclables transported from campus buildings to a main dumpster and then to MCI for sorting. As mentioned earlier we are working with a community partner, Sims Brothers, in order to bring this innovative partnership to fruition and to maintain an on-going zero-waste program.

Sincerely,

Maryjo Munday
Human Resource Manager