

# Recycling has many ups and downs

by Kimberly Stokoe, Baharak Amirkhalkhali, Duane Snow, Gurpreet Clair and Arthur Coolen

Do students at Dalhousie recycle? Due to the increasing need to reduce solid waste materials, one would like to think that everyone is doing their part to help in this growing problem.

Considering the rate at which landfills are filling up, and the fact that new ones are extremely difficult to create, recycling is a sensible and necessary practice.

In attempts to raise awareness, an informal survey looking at recycling efforts was recently passed around to Dalhousie students. The aim was to assess the general recycling practices of Dalhousie students both on and off campus.

One hundred people were randomly surveyed at various locations on campus. The survey asked about

people's recycling practices as a whole. For instance, whether or not they recycle, and whether they felt that they could improve their recycling efforts as well as what materials

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they recycle.

According to the survey, 88% of students recycle to some degree. This is an encouraging figure which indicates much interest.

Of all recyclable materials, paper was recycled most, with 84% of students recycling it in some form. The most commonly recycled forms of paper are photocopies and loose leaf.

It is important that people know where they can find recycling bins. A large percentage of people commented that there were not enough visible bins around and that they ended up throwing away recyclables because no recycling bins could be found.

Fifty seven percent of students in this survey seldom or never use the recycling bins on campus. Recycling is still somewhat inconvenient for most people, who are still used to throwing everything into the nearest large container.

The resources need to be provided before this can change.

Although the percentage of students who recycle is high, there is an underlying lack of knowledge about

recyclable materials. 59% of students thought that coloured paper was recyclable, or didn't know. It is not. 58% thought that most paper at Dalhousie was recycled back into paper, or didn't

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know. Again, this is not true.

Of all the respondents, only one student thought that their knowledge of Dalhousie's recycling efforts was good.

Making students more aware of the efforts that are being put towards recycling is a good way of increasing overall awareness and turning it into a more salient issue. It may also be an effective way of inducing the support of students who need more encouragement to get involved.

The survey indicates that there is not enough recycling on campus. 89% of students felt that they could improve their efforts. 87% also stated that they would be willing to pay extra in their tuition to help increase recycling efforts on campus.

One student indicated that they often walked around for hours with their recyclable garbage waiting to come across a recycling bin.

The simple way to keep garbage off campus grounds is to distribute numerous and noticeable garbage cans everywhere. The same could be done with recycling bins.

## Green house gas plan a farce

*Government is not going all they should*

by Samer Muscati, The Charlatan

OTTAWA (CUP) — Federal and provincial environment ministers met Feb. 20 in Toronto to hash out a new plan to reduce Canada's emission of greenhouse gases, but environmental groups call the plan a farce and say it will do nothing to curb the emissions. The plan relies on a system of voluntary challenges to individuals and corporations to reduce emissions, and doesn't mention legislation.

Canada is on track to break an international agreement, signed by more than 150 countries in 1992, to keep emissions at 1990 levels until the year 2000.

"Canada is an environmental outlaw," says Kevin Jardine, atmosphere campaigner for Greenpeace. "We are defying an international treaty. Canada will be internationally humiliated at the upcoming Berlin conference" in April 1995.

The federal government's "National Action Program" predicts Canada's greenhouse gas emissions could be 13 per cent above 1990 emissions by the year 2000.

Since 1990, Canada has added 12 power stations that use fossil fuels, adding 19.4 million tons of carbon dioxide yearly into the atmosphere. Canada's total annual emissions in 1993 were about 460 million tons.

Canada's natural gas production has also expanded by 40 per cent; production-related emissions increased by about 16 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Eighty per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are in the form of carbon dioxide, which form a blanket around the earth's atmosphere and subsequently trap heat.

The greatest temperature change could occur in northern latitudes in about 40 years. Canada could experience changing precipitation patterns, coastal flooding, extensive permafrost and icebergs thaw in the north.

Drier summers for the prairies, Ontario and southern Quebec are also possible consequences of having excess greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

Liseanne Forand, director general of the Canadian Council of Min-

isters of the Environment, says she is confident the new program will put Canada back on track.

"Not all the [provincial ministers] were happy with the draft, but everyone signed," says Forand. "It's a framework of strategic actions that will evolve."

The new plan "encourages" corporations and communities to set their own goals and choose their own initiatives.

One program under the plan is called Green Communities Initiatives in Ontario. Under the program, educational materials on climate change are provided to commercial, industrial and residential centres.

Another initiative is the National Biomass Ethanol Program, which encourages firms to invest in Canada's ethanol industry. The program will supply \$70 million in loans to build or expand on ethanol plants.

Ethanol, a type of alcohol, produces less carbon dioxide than fossil

fuels when burned.

A registry will also be designed to receive and publicize what participants have done to reduce emissions. But Greenpeace's Jardine says he's upset subsidies and tax breaks continue to be handed out to the fossil fuel industry every year.

"It's an inaction program," says Jardine. "The federal government is unwilling to provide leadership on this issue. It's time to get the oil industry off welfare."

Federal Natural Resources Minister Anne McLellan was presented the Dinosaur of the Year award by Greenpeace activists wearing dinosaur costumes during the Toronto conference.

The dinosaur symbolizes fossil fuel, and is awarded to the person Greenpeace considers the biggest supporter of the fossil-fuel industry.



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### POINTLESS PONDERABLES

**Last Week's Winner:**

Congratulations to Bryan Scott, who sent his answer in at 12:23 pm on Thursday. Yes, it is possible for a two-dimensional surface to be limitless and finite in area, if it is formed into a hollow sphere.

**This Week's Question (the doozy):**

You step up to a vending machine. The only coins you have are a quarter, and a nickel. You also have some dollar bills, which is plenty for what you want to buy.

To minimize the change you'll get from the vending machine, you drop the nickel in the slot, then feed a dollar bill into the machine. You then make your selection, and collect your purchase and your change. You have ended up with more coins than you started with.

**Questions:**

1. How much does the machine charge for the item you bought?
2. Why did you put \$1.05 into the machine instead of just the dollar?
3. Why did you put the nickel in first?

**Answers:**  
 1. Fifty-five cents.  
 2. You wanted 2 quarters back, not one quarter and two dimes.  
 3. Putting the dollar bill in first would cause the machine to return the nickel after it was inserted.

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