



# Living Sustainably: Student Initiatives

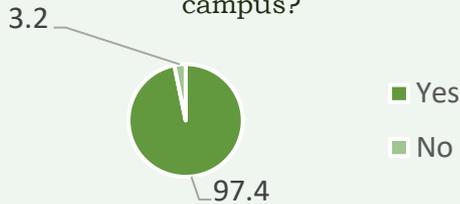


Emma Bucey

**Abstract:** One of the biggest challenges the world is facing right now is the increasing threat of climate change and limited availability of resources. Promoting sustainable practices such as recycling is a key step a campus can take to address these issues. The first step this study is taking is analyzing current student behavior, attitude, and perceptions through surveys to determine how to meet students where they are, and how their behavior can be changed. After analyzing the survey data, we intend to conduct a recyclable material sorting study to examine how well students can understand various recycling guidelines through current signage. The overall data collected will be used to restructure campus signage to promote efficient and effective recycling practices.

## Background

Would you recycle more if there were more opportunities to recycle on campus?



- WFF & Waste Management assessment indicated that there are more than enough opportunities to recycle on campus and that the issue was student awareness
- A study found that the average college student produces 640 pounds of solid waste a year – with a student population of 6,417 undergraduate, ERAU is producing approximately 4,106,880 pounds of waste per year



## Survey Results

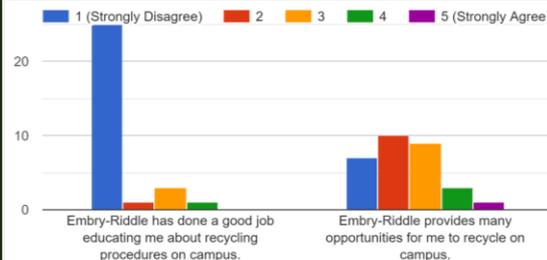
Do you recycle on campus?



## Common Challenges

“I don’t know how to properly recycle.” – 39% of recyclers, 32% of non-recyclers

“I can’t find a recycling bin.” – 56% of recyclers, 58% of nonrecyclers



## Recommended Solutions

- Increased number of recycling containers on campus
- More transparency between University administration and the student body concerning sustainability efforts
- Redesigned and redistribution of correct practices recycling signage



- Current recycling signage (pictured above) lacks details and presence on campus

### Sources:

“College and University Recycling.” CT.gov, portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Schools/College-and-University-Recycling.

“WFF Recycles.” Vickie Faber, Vendor Sustainability Contributions, ERAU Sustainability Conference 2020