



Zero Waste at Macalester College

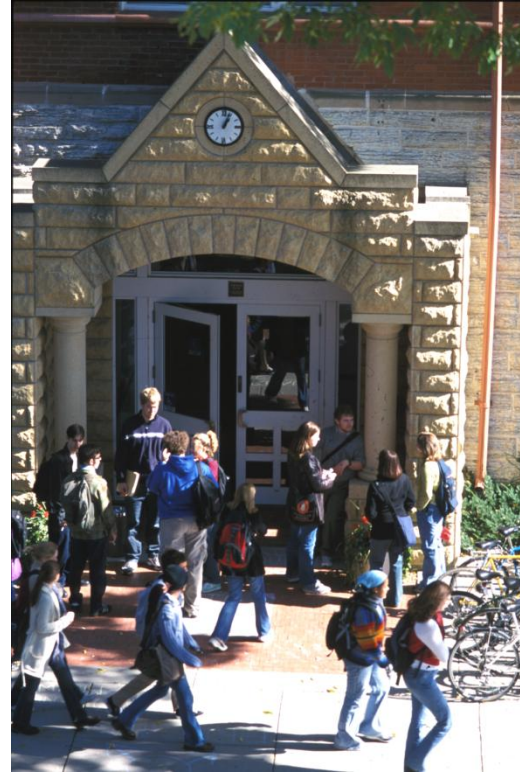
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UMACS

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Format for Today's Discussion

- *History*
- *Policy*
 - *Zero waste goal*
 - *Sustainability Plan*
- *Definition*
- *Future Plans*
- *Challenges*



It started with Recycling



- *Earth Day 1970 student volunteer*
- *Facilities Services took over in 1987*
- *By 2005, over 30 student employees and one full time custodian/recycler*



Eureka Recycling

- *Innovative Resource Management Contract*
- *Baseline Waste Sort*
 - *Highlighted challenges with communication and bins*
 - *83% waste stream garbage*
 - *17% recycled*
 - *37% of the garbage was recyclable*
- *Zero Waste Recommendations*
 - *Set up a Zero Waste Committee*



Sustainability Strategic Planning

“How does sustainability advance the core mission of Macalester College?”



- Planning Team met during the fall and spring
- Nearly 400 students, staff and faculty provided input
- The structure of the Sustainability Plan comes from this process

Sustainability Plan Process

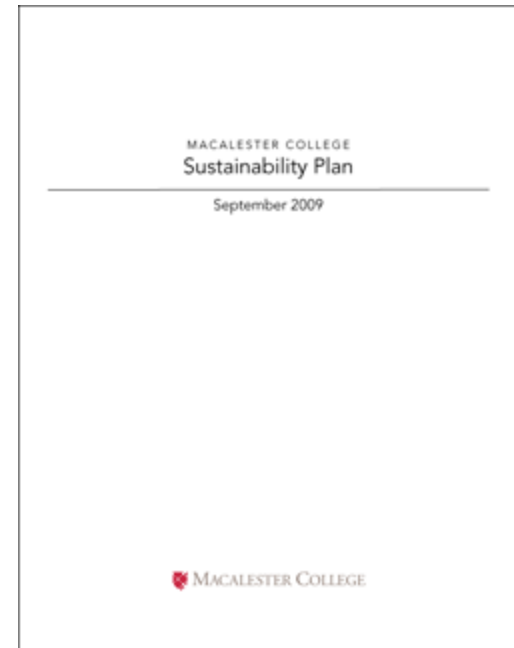
Three main goal categories

(from Strategic Plan):

- Leadership
- Operations
- Education

Goals developed by:

- 2009 ES Senior Seminar
Recommendations
- Strategic Plan
- Sustainability Advisory Committee
Task Forces (summer 2009)



Sustainability Plan Highlights



- Climate Neutral by 2025
- Zero Waste by 2020
- Integrate sustainability into curriculum and student programs
- Other policies
 - Green building policy
 - Purchasing policy

Zero Waste Definition

The ideal Zero Waste community sends nothing to landfills and incinerators and continually strives to reduce the volume of recyclables, compostables, and toxic/hazardous materials.

In practice, Macalester adheres to the widely accepted Zero Waste International Alliance standard, which states that Zero Waste Institutions divert 90% of waste from landfills and incinerators. *(Adopted by Zero Waste Committee, 2011)*

2010 Environmental Studies Senior Seminar

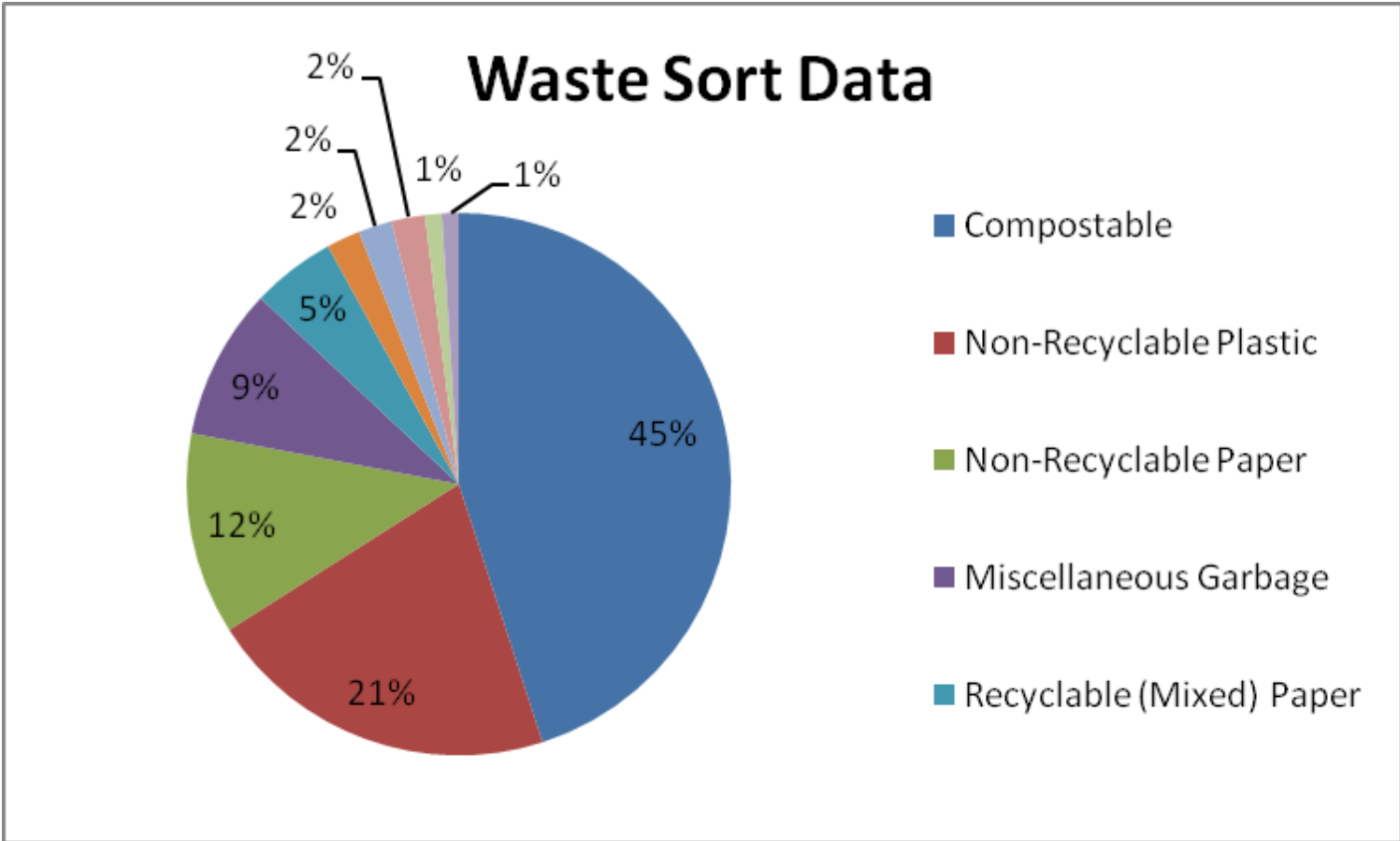
- Waste Sort
 - MN Waste Wise
 - Students assisted



Group projects

- Recycling communications and website
- Analysis of hand dryers vs. paper towels
- Off-campus student housing compost bin trial
- Printer and copy paper life cycle analysis
- On-campus composting recommendations

2010 Waste Sort



Zero Waste Structure

- **Zero Waste Committee**
 - Students, staff,
 - Co-chaired by recycling coordinator and sustainability manager
- **Zero Waste Student Worker**
 - Organized meetings
 - Organized developing a definition
 - Organized developing a plan
- **Recycling students and staff**
 - Recycling pick up and communications
 - Manage MacFree Swap
- **Sustainability Student Worker Network**
 - Food service/sustainability—Pig Food program
 - Sustainability—composting
 - Procurement—Bottled water free
- **Class projects**
 - One-time projects

Zero Waste Projects



- **MacFree Swap**
- **EcoClamshell Take Out Containers**
- **Reuseable Dishes/Dishwashers**
- **Move Out Waste**
 - The recycling rate jumped 17% (2008) to 46% (2009)
- **Food Waste as Pig Feed**
- **Bottled Water Free 2011**
- **Recycled Art Fair**
- **Vermicomposting**
- **Backyard composting**

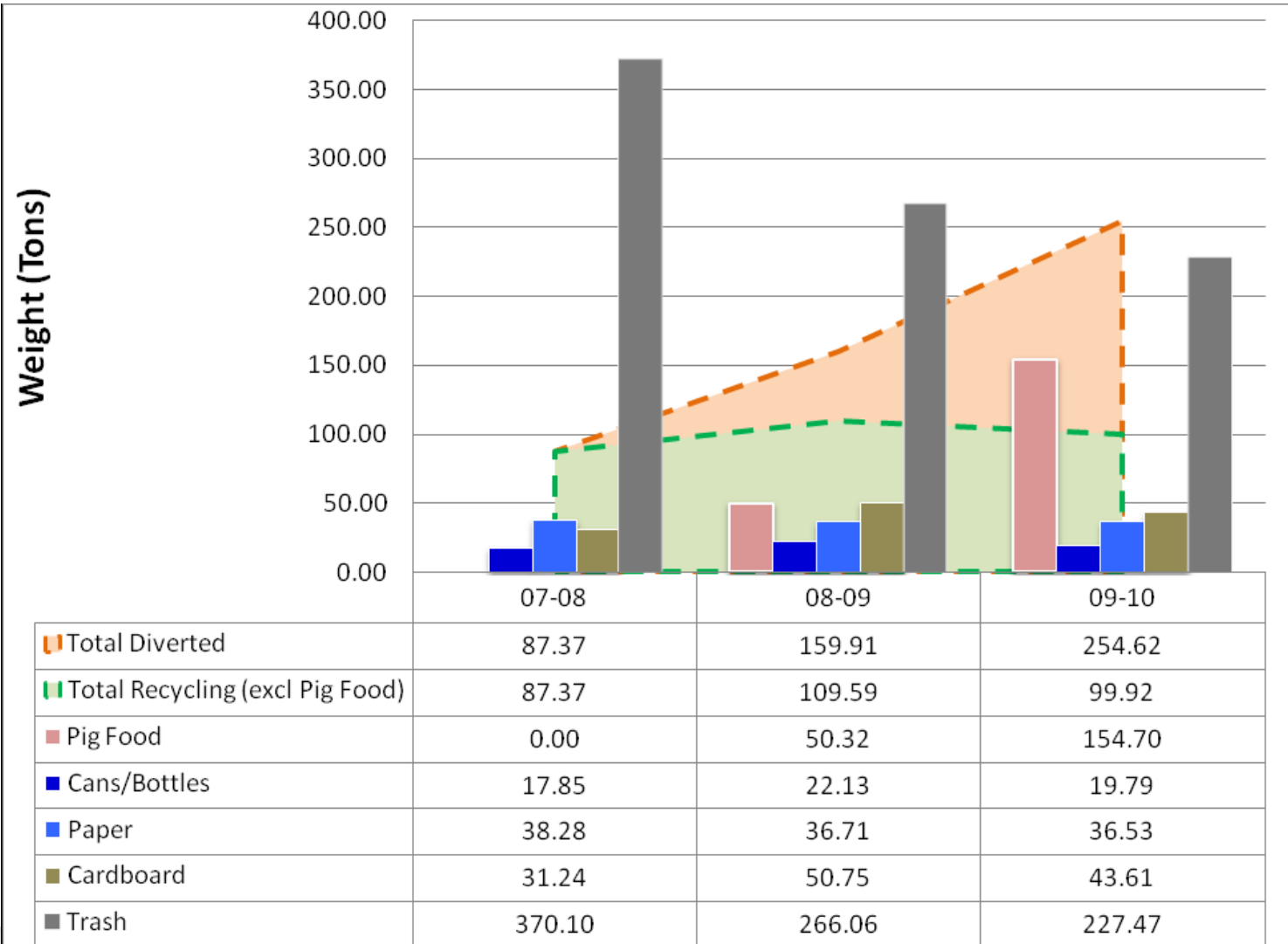
Move Out and Graduation



Photo from
www.networkforbetterfutures.com

- Partnership with Network for Better Futures
- Habitat for Humanity Donations for fall garage sale
- Cafe Mac Amnesty Boxes
- Rent Joe Boxes
- E-Waste Pickup
- Graduation Gown Donation Program

Results



Challenges

Topics

- Paper use
- Commercial composting
- Special waste
 - Alkaline batteries
 - Stretch wrap
 - Computer styrofoam

Process

- Data collection
- Communications



Future Plans

- Finalize Zero Waste Plan
- New Logo/Communications plan
- Commercial Composting
- Backyard Composting at college houses
- Waste competition
- Paper reduction program (ITS/Library)

Zero Waste! Now it seems practical.

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