

THE UP CYCLE

Messiah University's Office of Sustainability
Official Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Birding with Earthkeepers

9am | Meet at Oakes Museum

Service Day

April 4 | Grantham Community
Garden

Sustainability 4x4



Yes, We Do Recycle!

By: Aleesa Wu, Waste Coordinator

Many students often ask if Messiah University actually recycles. The answer is yes, but it's also more nuanced than you'd expect. First, we need to consider what recycling is. Recycling is the process of transferring a waste product into a reusable material.

Second, we need to consider what can be recycled: Cardboard, aluminum cans, glass, and 1,2,5 plastics. Not all plastics are created equal. Even if the triangle recycling sign exists on a plastic container, if the number sign isn't 1,2, or 5, it's simply not recyclable at PennWaste. Additionally, if recycling contains food waste or other contaminants, it's not recyclable. This is why it's important to be aware of what items are recyclable and to choose to sort these items away from trash.

While recycling remains a good practice, it's ultimately not a permanent solution. An article from National Public Radio: How Big Oil Misled The Public Into Believing Plastic Would Be Recycled claimed the following: "All used plastic can be turned into new things, but picking it up, sorting it out and melting it down is expensive. Plastic also degrades each time it is reused, meaning it can't be reused more than once or twice". Many boundaries exist that prevent recyclable items to actually be recycled. Additionally, plastics have a finite number of times it may be recycled. Because of these short-comings, I encourage consumers to mindfully chose low packaging options, second-hand purchases, and quality over quantity.

Long story short: Messiah University recycles through PennWaste and it's better to recycle than not.



Serving the Earth: Service Day 2024

By: Hanna Ryon, Communications Coordinator

“Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Each year, Messiah hosts Service Day – this year’s is on April 4th. Service Day is a beautiful opportunity to worship the Lord and help out our neighbors. There are countless opportunities to suit anyone’s needs and abilities, but we hope that you consider helping out the Office of Sustainability in the garden if you do not have other responsibilities!

This year we will be weeding and planting for this year’s produce growing season! We will also be repairing some parts of the chicken coop and the raised garden beds. I love Service Day in the garden because we always have so much fun listening to music and being goofy with each other. There is something so sweet about spending a day off outside caring for the environment that God gave us. Service is such a gift and I am so grateful Messiah embeds it into our curriculum. Make sure to sign up for serving in the garden on April 4th!



CHECK OUT
PICTURES FROM
SERVICE DAY
2023!

Bird Nerds with Earthkeepers

By: Danielle Leppert, Waste Coordinator

Messiah University Earthkeepers is a club that strives to promote sustainable practices. We aim to protect and improve the environment to honor God and the creation he has gifted us.

This Saturday, March 2nd, Earthkeepers will be going birding. This will be a time for us to connect with one another, connect with nature, and see who can spot the most bird species.

We will be meeting outside of the Oakes Museum at 9 AM by the elephant and will be walking the nature trails, so please dress accordingly. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome and I hope to see you there!



Food Recovery Network Volunteers Needed

Messiah donates leftovers from Lottie to Bethesda Men's Homeless Shelter

Volunteers pick one hour every week to transport trays.

Volunteers can use their own vehicle and commit to an hour of their time regularly.

Volunteers will be trained and informed about how and where to transport the trays.

Food Recovery Network is a non-profit organization working to reduce food waste and benefit local communities.



SCAN TO VOLUNTEER!