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## Introduction:

- Every quarter, students at Central Washington University throw away good clothing, unopened food, and useful household items that could have been donated.
- Despite many existing programs to discourage waste, such as CWU Surplus, Wildcat Pantry, and 'Don't Waste, Donate,' many items still end up in dumpsters due to a lack of awareness and convenience.
- This project tested student behavior on donation items by building on CWU's current 'Don't Waste, Donate' program by creating two free donation stations at Barto and Wendell residence halls.

## Study Area and Methods

- Two collection carts were placed in visible, high-traffic locations near the trash areas of Barto and Wendell residence halls.
- Bins were clearly labeled to accept clean clothing, unopened non-expired food, and usable household items.
- Project lead checked and emptied the bins each morning as part of regular trash and recycling collection.
- Data was collected on donation volume, contamination rates, and types of items donated.

Brand new Bed sheets

Brand new Housewares



Un-opened un-expired food

Figure 1. Example of denotable Items Found in trash.

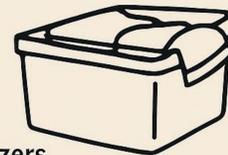
# DON'T WASTE—DONATE!

CWU Freecycle Collection & Reuse Program

Moving out? Got stuff you don't want to pack?  
Give your items a second life!  
Drop off **CLEAN, USABLE** items by the trash area of Barto and Wendell Halls.

### YOU CAN DONATE:

- Gently used clothing & shoes
- Unopened, non-expired food
- Dorm supplies (lamps, organizers, rugs, etc.)
- Small appliances (working condition only)



### YOU CAN'T DONATE:

- Opened food or beverages
- Trash or broken items
- Large furniture
- Anything soiled or moldy

### Location:

Barto and Wendell Halls

Help reduce campus waste and support other CWU students. Thank you!

Figure 2. Flyer design used for bin instructions posted in the residence halls.

## Expected Outcomes

- Reduce landfill waste by capturing usable items through passive donation streams.
- Provide valuable data on student engagement, types of donations, and contamination rates.
- Inform future sustainability efforts on campus based on data collected.

## YOU CAN DONATE

- Unopened, unexpired food
- Small appliances
- Dorm supplies
- Gently used clothing and shoes



## YOU CAN'T DONATE

- Opened or expired food
- Trash or unrepairable items
- Large furniture
- Soiled or moldy items
- Used toiletries, cosmetics, or cleaning supplies



Figure 3. Labeled donation flyer for cart placed at Barto and Wendell Hall's with clearly labeled sections for clothes, food and household items.

## Recommendations

- Expand the project to all residence halls during move-out periods if successful.
- Improve signage and RA promotion to increase awareness and participation.
- Coordinate with Wildcat Pantry and CWU Surplus to support CWU's broader sustainability mission.

This Project Supports UN Sustainable Development Goals:



## Acknowledgements

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## References

ChatGPT for Figure 1 & 2 created by AI and refined by AI.