

September 1, 2017

Topic - Suggested specifications for recycling built-ins and recycling rooms

Recycling at the University of New Mexico is thriving and we get many requests for more bins and services. However, recycling is a very labor intensive process and we are currently seeking ways to reduce both labor and material costs.

Recycling Built-ins:

There are many different size and shapes of recycling/trash built-ins across campus and some of our customers have complained to us that the units installed in their departments are too small and/or inconveniently placed. I recommend that a campus wide standard for recycling/trash built-ins be used for all buildings in order to accommodate both customer and Recycling Services needs and requirements.

Recycling/trash built-ins accumulate dirt and spilled food or drink, which attracts bugs. UNM Recycling will not be responsible for cleaning the built-ins and a work order will have to be submitted to UNM Custodial to pay for those services. UNM Recycling will only provide our standard size 4' X 46", 45 gallon plastic bags for the bottle/can recycling built-ins. If a different size is required, the department will be responsible for purchasing those bags and making them available to the Recycling staff.

Recycling rooms:

Recycling/trash rooms are common in our newer buildings. These rooms must be large enough to accommodate three to four of our largest recycling bins on wheels (52" x 24" x 24") and allow for the Recycling Techs to be able to maneuver those bins out of the room to be emptied. Creating separate recycling and trash rooms has proved ineffective as building residents will not separate their waste and take it to one room or the other.

Please be aware that UNM Recycling does not pick up recycling in class rooms or individual office spaces.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Clark, Sustainability Manager, at 277-1142 or mary@unm.edu.