

Waste Stream and Recycling at Sprint – Overland Park Campus

The Sprint Campus in Overland Park, KS has a robust and diverse waste stream and recycling program. Over the last 10-12 years, Sprint has continued to look for new and innovative ways to use less, and recycle more. The basics include recycling of paper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastic, and Sprint has been recycling these basic items for many years. In addition, Sprint has added toner cartridges, glass, oil, wet waste food compost, yard waste, rubber, metal, wood pallets, light bulbs and lamps, batteries, cell phones, charges, cords, air cards, and carpet to mix of materials recycled at various times on the campus.

To encourage recycling of these items, Sprint has employed techniques including removal of small trash bins from conference rooms, followed by placement of additional recycle and waste bins outside large conference rooms. This simple move left conference room users nowhere to discard plastic and aluminum drink bottles inside the conference room. Instead, employees carried the containers out of the room, to be met with a choice to recycle or trash any items. When provided with such easy access to recycle, most people make the correct choice.

Sprint also provides free personal document shredding on the last Friday of each month to employees and contractors who work on campus. Folks simply bring any personal papers they wish to have shredded to the designated dock area and Sprint shred techs shred personal documents in the commercial-grade shredder. This free service allows employees to safely discard their personal items, while Sprint ensures that all of this material is recycled through Sprint regular recycling process.

All food and other biodegradable waste is collected and picked up three times per week by Missouri Organics. This waste goes through the process to become compost, which Sprint buys back from Missouri Organics to mulch the beautiful Overland Park Campus.

For those more interested in conservation, Sprint has several programs that encourage using less material, and therefore diverting more from landfills. The first example is Sprint's SOS (Surplus Office Supply) store. Anyone can bring in office supplies that are no longer needed in their department. The SOS store displays the items in an organized manner for anyone on campus to "shop" from. Sprint employees who need simple office supplies know to check with SOS before ordering anything new. This behavior reduces waste and encourages repurposing of durable supplies.

Sprint also has a program designed to eliminate wasteful use of office paper. The program is called iDigitize and has been in place for many years. The program encourages employees to make use of technology to eliminate the need to print and/or copy paper materials. Components of the program include eCopy Desktop, Office Communicator, VOIP phones, Adobe, multifunction scanning devices, Webfax, and Earth Class Mail.

In addition to conserving landfill waste and recycling as much as possible, Sprint has also taken water conservation very seriously. When the campus was built, Sprint worked closely with the Army Corp of Engineers to re-establish the wetland area on the Southeast corner of the campus property. The area is now home to 3 "lakes" that serve as a runoff water recapture system. The recaptured grey water is used to irrigate the campus landscape and is home to many different species of wildlife. This system has allowed Sprint to remain off of city water for all irrigation and gray water uses.