

Bowdoin Transition to “All in the Hall” Waste Collection

Bowdoin is transitioning towards a new waste collection system campuswide. Individuals will now be responsible for sorting their deskside waste at shared collection areas in each building that housekeeping staff will be servicing *in lieu of* deskside bins. Once the program is launched in your building, housekeeping will no longer empty individual office bins but will service the shared waste stations.



Why are we doing this?

This change aligns with practices seen at many other higher ed institutions. A [2024 survey](#) of 170 campuses found that 44% of larger schools require staff to empty their own deskside waste, and 60% reported lower contamination when deskside waste collection was eliminated. This system reduces plastic bag use and saves housekeeping time, allowing them to focus on other cleaning tasks. People have also suggested they like the motivation to get away from their desk and incorporate movement into their day.

How it works:

This system, known as “All in the Hall” involves employees taking their waste (both trash and recycling) to shared collection areas near their offices. As part of our initial roll-out, some employees have stopped using personal deskside bins entirely, while others still use them but only empty them when full. If you choose to get rid of your bins, please let Manager of Cleaning Services, Brandie Hurley, know and they will get picked up. **If you choose to only empty your containers once per week, it would be best to do this Monday through Thursday since Housekeeping is typically out of academic buildings by 8am and a week’s worth of waste dumped into the containers after 8am on a Friday won’t get removed until the following Monday.**

Note: Housekeeping still enters office spaces for routine cleaning and are still emptying trash receptacles in all **public spaces** such as hallways, bathrooms, kitchenettes, etc. daily.

Implementation:

Brandie Hurley, Manager of Cleaning Services, and Keisha Payson, Director of Sustainability, are rolling out the system building by building. They are meeting with staff in each department to walk the building and collectively determine the best locations for the shared waste stations and where to place replacement liners for personal bins. Once the stations are set up, they will confirm the start of the program and distribute an explanation to staff, with contact information for any questions. They are also available to meet with departments or revisit locations if adjustments are needed.

Rollout Progress:

Nearly forty buildings have already transitioned to the new system with just a handful remaining. Employees have expressed satisfaction with the simplicity of the process. Responses have included comments like “Of course! We should have done this long ago!” and “Great idea!” Communication is key, and if your building is experiencing challenges, we want to hear from you.

Questions?

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