



SEJF large grants requests are for projects that require funding over \$35,000. The large grant abstract is designed to introduce a project idea that requires significant funding to the SEJF Committee. Abstract approval is required before submitting a large grant application. For detailed abstract instructions and further information about the program, please refer to the SEJF *Grant Toolkit*.

Submit completed application by delivering a hard copy and emailing a scanned version (including signatures) to SEJF Manager Johnathan Riopelle at High Street Hall Room 22. Applications must be provided in both forms in order to be reviewed. Email: [johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu](mailto:johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu).

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#### **SECTION 1: Project Concept.**

- a. Project Title: Waste Sorting Station Expansion Proposal
- b. Describe your proposed project:

This project will improve Western Washington University's main campus waste system by funding the purchasing of sorting stations such that each floor of each academic building will possess at least one four-part sorting station. This action will subsequently remove any stand-alone landfill bins which currently occupy several rooms within academic buildings. These stand-alone landfill bins are unproductive to Western's sustainability goals since they provide a convenient option for students to place any unwanted materials in the landfill without also providing options to recycle and compost. The absence of landfill alternatives often causes many recyclable and compostable materials to reach the landfill, adding to Western's overall waste output and carbon footprint.

Blue barrels will remain in locations where they already exist. This problem will be removed upon the installment of stations, which will provide options for landfill, paper recycling, aluminum, glass, and plastic recycling, as well as compost. Blue barrels are the Recycle Center's preferred method of collecting recyclable materials as they are an efficient system that allows for staff to change receptacles quickly and eliminate the need to use bags, which would create further waste. Providing students with options other than landfill requires that they, at a minimum, stop and think about which of the four waste bins is most appropriate to use to discard their waste. Even just requiring folks to stop and think about where they locate their material is an advancement in sustainability and waste education, as many users will need to stop and read educational signage to make an informed decision about where their material belongs. If nothing else, four-part sorting stations will omit the convenience of being able to dispose of materials mindlessly and ensure that students are making an active decision when they are producing and disposing of waste.

Newly created sorting signage will accompany these new stations and will be accounted for within the final budget. Sorting signs will include information about which materials belong in each bin. They will contain both words and images relating to waste that is typically produced at Western. Graphics will include common items like coffee cups, to-go ware, food waste, and more. The sorting signs will also include what not to put in each bin which is an element that has historically been disregarded. This feature will improve confusion around whether something explicitly does not belong in a certain waste category. Waste signage is essential to this project because without it users would not know how to sort the waste they wish to dispose.

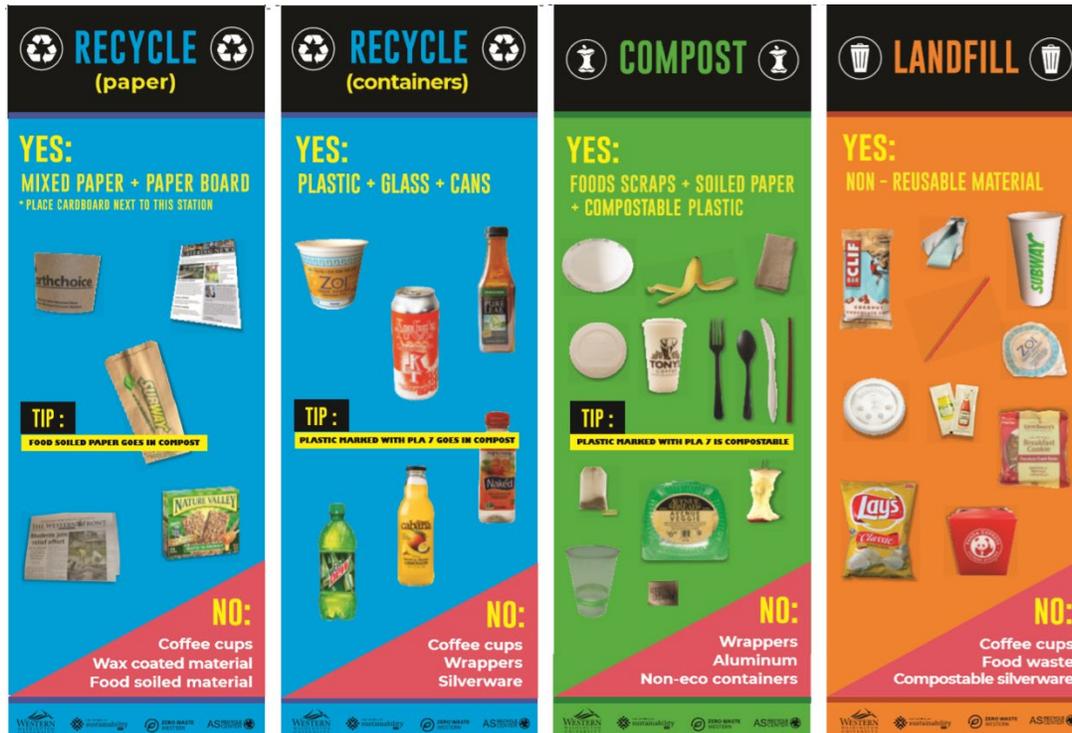


Fig 1. Sorting Station Signage

c. Who is the intended audience?

Western Washington University students, staff, faculty, and visitors will be impacted by the changes to our waste stream. They will now need to use a station in a hallway rather than in a classroom, which may be less convenient but will ultimately produce a productive outcome for ecological sustainability goals on campus.

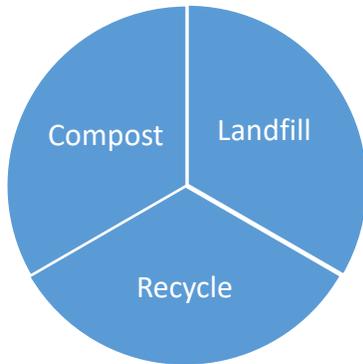
Custodial staff will also be impacted positively because their pick-up routes will be more efficient with bins being located in close proximity to one another as opposed to the prior model of being dispersed between classrooms, hallways, and other areas of buildings.

d. What are the goals and desired outcomes of your project?

A goal of this grant is to decrease Western's overall waste production. Assuming that when given the options of landfill, recycling, and compost folks sort their waste properly, Western could divert an approximate 66% of its landfill waste. Western's waste audits have historically shown that 1/3 of the landfill could be recycled, 1/3 could be composted, and the other 1/3 is composed of true landfill items (Zero Waste Audits, 2016-2018). With the addition of four-part sorting stations and removal of stand-alone landfill stations, these statistics could be altered so that each bin is composed of only the materials that are appropriate for their containers and result in a significant decrease in landfill waste production. Wayne Galloway, head of Academic Custodial Services, has

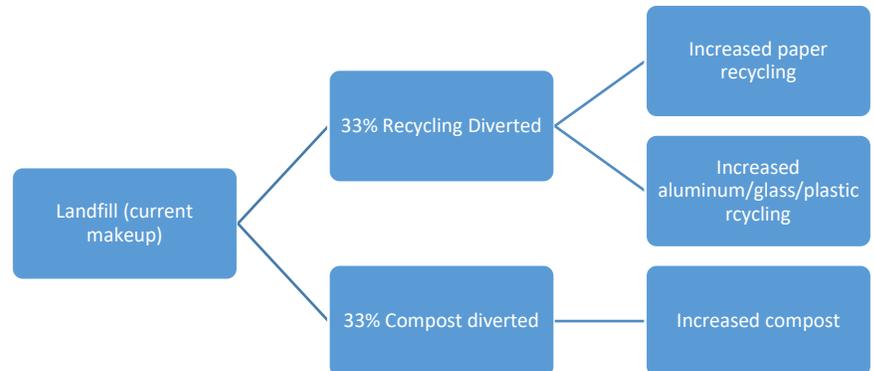
advised Zero Waste Western that he does not expect any increase in landfill capacity with the removal of stand-alone landfill bins. He believes that the assumption of students allocating waste appropriately when given the opportunity is accurate, and that many of the materials discarded in stand-alone landfill bins are recyclable or compostable materials that students dispose of in the landfill out of convenience.

**Current Landfill Makeup:**



**Diversion Goals:**

**Less landfill waste overall after diversion.**



An additional goal of this project is to increase waste education on campus. By removing stand-alone landfill bins and adding more four-part sorting stations, students will see that Western is changing its facilities to demonstrate best sustainability practices. Additionally, each of the sorting stations will be coupled with educational signage which will show the users which materials belong in which bins of the sorting station, providing users with an opportunity to educate themselves and learn proper waste-sorting habits that they may take with them off-campus as well.

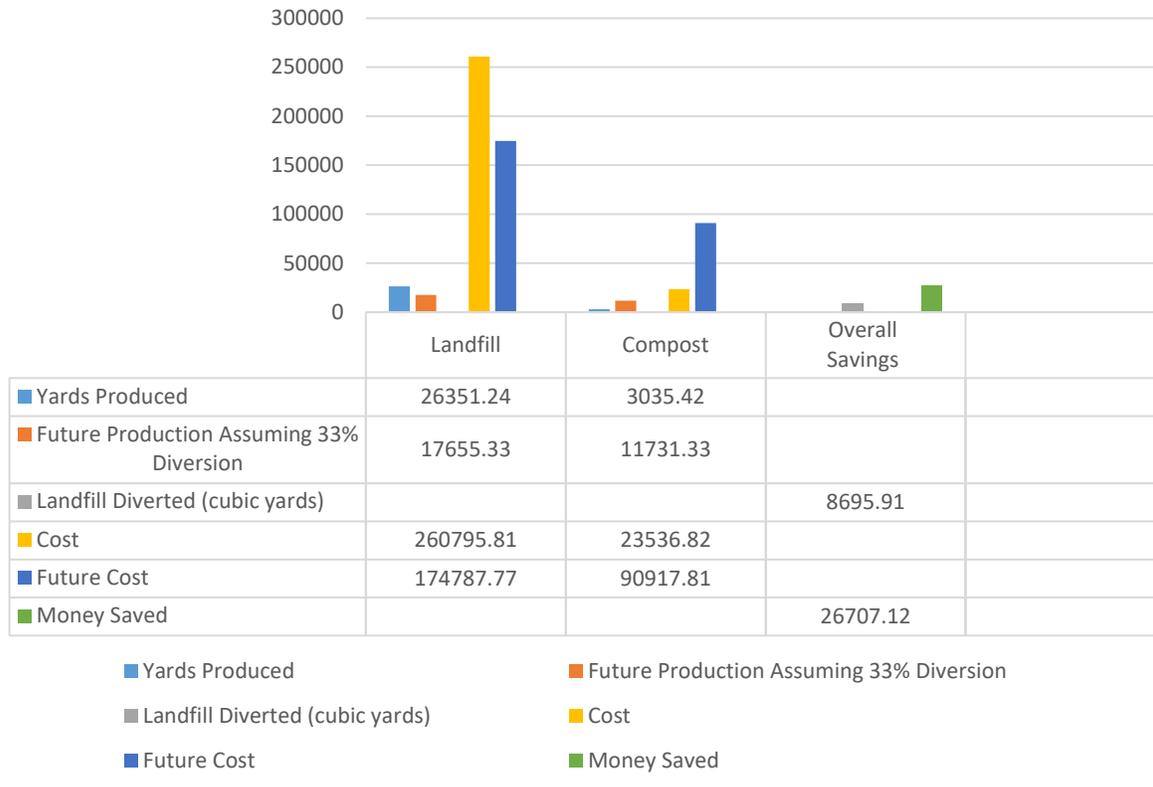
- e. How will your project positively impact sustainability at Western?

This project will most directly impact ecological sustainability since it will be minimizing the waste produced by Western. During the fiscal year 2018-2019, Western produced 26,351 cubic yards of landfill waste. Assuming that two-thirds of landfill waste is typically divertible, Western could reduce its annual landfill waste by 66%. This project will impact social sustainability in that landfill waste is harmful to our climate and that people with marginalized identities often experience the burden of climate change first and to a higher extent than non-marginalized people. While this impact is broad, it is very important considering the impact of Western as an institution and the imminence of the effects of climate change.

This project will address economic sustainability in that it will save the University money, since landfill is expensive to dispose. During the fiscal year 2018-2019, Western spent \$260,795.89 on landfill waste alone. The addition of these bins will decrease landfill production and save the University thousands in waste costs, since compost and recycle are each cheaper to dispose of than landfill. Compost is on average about 20% less costly than landfill according to Rodd Pemble, Recycling Manager at SSC. While the units of measurement between landfill and compost are different depending on yardage and volume, Rodd says that 20% is an accurate number to represent the cost savings of composting vs. landfilling items.

Additionally, assuming that decreased landfill means increases in recycling and compost, the Associated Students Recycling Center will benefit from receiving more materials, from which the program profits and sustains itself.

### Savings in Future Years Based on FY 18-19 Data



Finally, this will address human health because we will be sending less waste to the landfill. Landfills often leak leachate, also known as “toxic garbage juice”, which is a harmful liquid that can contaminate drinking waters and other groundwater sources, causing potential harm to humans living in areas whose drinking water is sourced from contaminated water. Also, landfills are typically located in communities of color and low-income, so those human health impacts would affect those folks first and most strongly, relating back to the social aspect of sustainability. Western sends its waste to Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County. This region is not a primary example of environmental injustice, but waste overall contributes to the issue of environmental racism and any contribution made to landfill encourages these facilities to remain as the standard method of disposal.

### SECTION 3: Project Participants.

- a. Team Information: A team should consist of two to five individuals, including the advisor.

Team Advisor Information (Faculty or Staff) Student proposals must include a staff or faculty advisor. The role of the advisor is to provide assistance and guidance to the team during the development, implementation, and post-implementation stages of the proposal process.

Team Lead: There must be at least one team lead designated for the project. This individual is expected to serve as the communication liaison for the project.

Name	Department/School Students provide major/minor	Position: Faculty/staff/student Students provide expected graduation quarter/year	Western email address
<i>Team Advisor:</i>	Wayne Galloway	Manager of Academic Custodial Services	galloww@wwu.edu
<i>Team Lead:</i>	Hope Peterson	Student Employee – Zero Waste Coordinator/Support Staff effective Monday 2/24/2020	peter373@wwu.edu
<i>Team Member:</i>	Lauren Sanner	Student Employee – Zero Waste Coordinator effective Monday 2/24/2020	zerowaste@wwu.edu
<i>Team Member:</i>	Haven Johansen	Student Employee – Zero Waste Assistant Coordinator effective Monday 2/24/2020	zerowasteasst@wwu.edu
<i>Team Member:</i>			

b. Potential Project Stakeholders

Will your project potentially involve labor, include involvement, or require permission from organizations, departments, or individuals on campus or in the community? If so, these will be your stakeholders; please list them below. *Communication with stakeholders is not required for abstract approval.*

Stakeholder	Involvement in Project
<b>Wayne Galloway</b>	Will facilitate the ordering and distribution of new sorting stations throughout academic buildings.
<b>Richard Neyer</b>	Will be made aware of new sorting station locations; oversees staff who service these stations.

**SECTION 4: Project Budget.**

- a. Provide a realistic budget estimate for the project, based upon research of all anticipated costs. Do not itemize estimated costs within the four categories.

Item	Cost
Materials	\$ 144,662.62
Labor/contracts	\$
Promotion	\$
Other	\$
<b>Total budget estimate</b>	<b>\$144,662.62</b>

- b. The SEJF program encourages the use of additional funding sources to create a collaboratively-funded project; include potential funding sources beyond the SEJF that you will seek.

Funding Source	Connection to project	Potential Funds

Is there any additional information about the project that you would like to share?

This project has been requested by the student body for years. Specifically, in building such as Environmental Studies, Communications, and Bond Hall, there are no sorting stations currently in which students can responsibly dispose of their materials. We have provided substantial education to our student body over the years through signage, events, and social media that encourages the campus to sort properly when they are able. We are disserving students who would likely sort responsibly but are not given the opportunity to do so by continuing to allow academic buildings to operate with inefficient waste systems.

Additionally, a tiered budget will be provided in the final grant application should the committee feel that the amount requested should be reconsidered and/or delivered over a period of time. Zero Waste Western is grateful to accept whatever committee is willing to provide, however, the 80 sorting stations as proposed would allow for one sorting station on each floor of each academic building, maintaining consistency across campus in terms of waste-sorting standards.



Please set an appointment with the SEJF Manager to review your drafted proposal. Once your project proposal is complete, it must be signed and delivered to the SEJF Manager, Johnathan Riopelle, at High Street Hall Room 22, and also emailed application to [johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu](mailto:johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu). You will not need to meet with Seth Vidaña, Director of Sustainability.

Your completed large grant abstract will be presented to the SEJF Committee for consideration. The SEJF Manager will provide you with information on the committee's response and decision regarding your request.

**Johnathan Riopelle, Sustainability, Equity, & Justice Fund Manager, Western Washington University**

High Street Hall Room 22

Available by appointment

Email: [johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu](mailto:johnathan.riopelle@wwu.edu)

Phone: (360) 650-4501

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This signature confirms that the application has been accepted for SEJF committee review; it does not indicate funding approval.*

**Seth Vidaña, Director of Sustainability, Western Washington University**

High Street Hall Room 22

Phone: (360) 650-2491

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This signature confirms that the application has been accepted for SEJF committee review; it does not indicate funding approval.*

Comments: