

TRACS-FEBRUARY 2019



TRASH TO TREASURE

REDUCING WASTE DURING ON-CAMPUS DORM MOVE OUT

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The Campus Environmental Center

- “To empower the University of Texas at Austin community to pursue a genuine culture of environmental sustainability through constructive and dynamic means.”
- Mission:
 - Understand and Act
 - Educate Others
 - Be a Leader
 - Try New Ideas
 - Collaborate

CEC History

- Founded in Fall 2002 by a group of students led by Corinna Kester.
- Original goals:
 - Improve the UT recycling program
 - Build a partnership with UT administrators to improve the campus environment
- 2003
 - CEC became an official agency of Student Government
 - Received a grant from the National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Program and matching funds from Student Government.
- 2004
 - University Operations agreed to fund a CEC Director position and a Sustainability Coordinator position

CEC History

- 2005
 - The Trash to Treasure (T2T) Program began
 - Funding from T2T, Employee and Campus Services, and the Student Services Budget Committee (SSBC)
 - The creation of part-time official staff Advisor position
- 2009
 - Began using SSBC funds for student wages
 - The Advisor was taken in by Facilities Services' Recycling and Sustainability Branch
 - The Advisor role became a full-time position

CEC History

- 2010
 - Became a sponsored student org under Campus Planning and Facilities Management (a large portfolio containing the Office of Sustainability and all of Facilities Services)
- 2010-2015
 - The CEC took on new projects and grew to employ over 20 students and staff
- 2015
 - The CEC became housed under the Office of Sustainability within Campus Planning & Project Management

Overview

- A recycling and resale program.
- Mission
 - To promote a culture of sustainability and stewardship among UT staff and students through the reduction and diversion of waste
- Goals
 - To divert reusable items from ending up in a landfill
 - Provide inexpensive home goods, clothing, and school supplies to the UT community
 - Raise funds for the Campus Environmental Center
 - To help UT meet its zero-waste goal by 2020

Trash to Treasure Team

- Two paid student leader positions (year round)
- Team members
 - UT Farm Stand team members
 - Zero-waste team member
 - Social media team member

Facebook: CEC Trash to Treasure
Instagram: @trashtotreasure_CEC



Metrics

- In one school year...
 - About 12,000 lbs of food, school supplies, home goods, and clothing diverted from the landfill.
 - About 1,400 lbs of goods donated to local non-profits
 - About 2,300 lbs of food donated to the student food pantry
 - 280+ services hours completed by volunteers

Resources & Services

- Storage unit (year round)
- Pick-up truck
- Garbage bins with wheels
- Veterinarian scale for recording metrics
- A budget for posters and fliers
- UT Moving Services (two box trucks & a moving crew)
- A volunteer base



Storage & Sorting

- Facilities complex
- Year-round storage unit
- Clothing racks
- Shelving units
- Wheeled bins
- Sorting mostly done in the summer by two student employees
- Freshman orientation sessions
- CEC sort days

“The Cage”



Donation Drive

- During spring dorm move-out
- 14 campus residence halls
 - 7000+ students living on campus
 - Placed bins in 6 of the 14 dorms
- 10 days
 - One pick up, every morning
 - On the last three days, picked up once in the morning and once in the evening
 - Last day: Used a moving box truck



Donations to the Community

- SAFE Austin
 - Sheets, blankets, comforters
- Casa Marianella
 - Bedding & towels
- Street Youth Ministry
 - Underwear & socks
- Austin Animal Center
 - Towels
- Eagle Carpet Recycling
 - Mattress toppers
- Salvation Army
 - Pillows
- Goodwill
 - Everything remaining after sales

Sales

- 2-4 per semester
- Heavily advertised
 - Posters
 - Dorm bulletin boards, outdoor kiosks, building bulletins
 - Facebook event
 - CEC newsletter
 - UT calendar
 - CEC calendar
 - Digiknows
 - Texas Parents newsletter

Sales

- Pop-up thrift shop on campus
- 2-4 per semester in total
- UT Moving Services transports goods to sale site for us
 - 2 box trucks
 - 2-4 crew members
- Items moved to site via bins and clothing racks
 - Items removed from bins and placed on tables for easier viewing
- Outdoors in a highly trafficked area
- ~5 hours in length + 1 hour set up and 30 minute tear down
- 3-10 volunteers at a time





Volunteer Recruitment

- GivePulse
- List serv
- CEC meetings
- Google doc
 - Shared via:
 - CEC Newsletter
 - Mailchimp email list
 - Facebook page

Partnerships

- The UT Outpost
 - Student food pantry
 - Career Closet
- Service fraternities & student organizations
- UT Farm Stand
 - Provide t-shirts as reusable bags
 - Informational tabling



Clothing Mending Workshop



Equity

- Every item just \$1
 - TVs, desks, bookshelves
 - Desk lamps, coffee makers, shower caddies
 - Scientific calculators, laptop chargers, portable phone batteries
 - Brand name clothing: North Face jackets & backpacks, Jordans (shoes), Nikes, Patagonia shirts, Levi Jeans, Wrangler Jeans, Polo shirts, Timberland, Lululemon, Chacos, Yeti water bottles, Adidas.
 - School Supplies
- Facilities Sale
 - \$1 per bag of any size