

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



CASE STUDY

RIT's Goodbye, Goodbuy Program Expands on Campus and Throughout New York State

Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) Goodbye, Goodbuy program was founded in 2015 by two students whose goal was to reduce waste and provide affordable supplies for students. The process contains three main stages: move-out collection, summer storage, and move-in sale.

RIT's first Goodbye, Goodbuy event began with collection of dorm furnishings and unwanted belongings during dorm move-out days. It ended during freshman move-in with new and returning students purchasing most of the turned in items. It was conceived as an event to save landfill space and promote reuse but ended as a successful and effective pollution prevention exercise. Prior to the program was implemented everything the departing students didn't have time to pack, didn't want, or could not fit in their parent's cars ended up in RIT dumpsters. During the first year, 35 tons of usable goods were collected and sold for \$21,000. This included diverting over 50 pounds of pharmaceuticals, and significant quantities of chemical art supplies, compact fluorescent bulbs, and batteries of all varieties.



Photo Credit: RIT

Through education and student engagement, Goodbye, Goodbuy creates an environment on college campuses across NYS in which less material and potential pollutants are landfill bound, more goods are reused, and a higher percentage of potentially polluting materials are responsibly recycled or disposed of. Thus benefiting the campuses with waste diversion, accessible and affordable goods, employing students, campus sustainability commitments, community involvement, and humanitarian aid.

Challenge

Reducing waste and providing affordable supplies for students is a challenge for NYS universities and colleges. RIT's goal was to implement and expand the program to encompass more of NYS institutions. The key to success is developing a metric system that allows for tracking the reduction in environmental impact of organizations as well as outreach, sharing, and implementing this pollution prevention exercise in colleges across the state.

Solution

To address the issue, Goodbye, Goodbuy researched, optimized,



NYS College & University President's Climate Commitment and Goodbye, Goodbuy Project Partners

CHALLENGE

- Optimizing and expanding the Goodbye, Goodbuy program in an effort to reduce waste across NYS colleges

SOLUTION

- Goodbye, Goodbuy researched, optimized, and implemented best practices for dorm move-out day materials collection and reuse
- A carbon footprint analysis was performed by assigning a cradle to gate avoidance ratio (CO₂e) to each item collected, then calculating the carbon footprint

RESULTS

- 15 NYS schools became project partners
- Over 300 volunteers contributed to Goodbye, Goodbuy during finals week by collecting and diverting 34.5 tons of solid waste
- Over 200 volunteers raised more than \$24,000 in sales
- All food collected (~8,000 lbs) was donated to FoodShare, an on-campus food pantry for students



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and implemented best practices for dorm move-out day materials collection and reuse. A carbon footprint analysis was performed through assigning a cradle to gate avoidance ratio (CO2e) to each item collected and then calculating the carbon footprint. This analysis was used, via presentations, to educate RIT's own student population and colleges across the state at the NYS Sustainability Conference in November 2016. In addition, 15 universities became project partners.



Photo Credit: RIT



Photo Credit: RIT

Results

Carbon avoidance due to new product displacement can be estimated through Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) and Cradle to Gate Carbon Footprints. In just one year, over 300 volunteers contributed to Goodbye, Goodbuy during finals week by collecting and diverting 34.5 tons of solid waste, and over 200 volunteers raised more than \$24,000 in sales. Tons of clothing was distributed to the local community. All the food collected (~8,000 lbs) was donated to FoodShare, which is an on-campus food pantry for students.

Resources

- Website www.rit.edu/goodbyegoodbuy/
- Facebook www.facebook.com/RITgg
- Twitter www.twitter.com/goodbyegoodbuy
- Instagram www.instagram.com/goodbyegoodbuy

TESTIMONIAL

"Funding from NYSP2I's Community Grants program allowed us to gain a much better understanding of the types and quantity of materials diverted during a campus move-out collection program. Their support allowed Rochester Institute of Technology's program to become a model for other colleges and universities. I would encourage any community-centered organization that works on pollution prevention or waste minimization to consider applying for funding. We truly enjoyed working with them."

- Josh Goldowitz,
Professor/Undergrad Prog. Coord. Env.
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Rochester Institute of Technology

"NYSP2I funding enabled us to better understand the best practices associated with college campus move-out collection programs, and share those findings with peer institutions. Our project resulted in improvements in the Goodbye, Goodbuy! program model, and an intrastate partnership of focused resource management. Working with NYSP2I was a pleasure, and we are so appreciative of

- Sarah Quirk, Student
Rochester Institute of Technology

NYSP2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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