



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS UNION SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Volunteer Training

Sunday Recycling Sorters

Contact the ARKU Sustainability Intern:
unionst@uark.edu

2024-2025

Welcome!

Hi! My name is Ella Fei Flesher

I'm a senior Environmental, Soil, and Water Science major
interning with the Arkansas Union as their Sustainability
Intern

I have background in food recovery work with the
Volunteer Action Center

Overview

- Who we are + objectives
- Set up
- Process
- Sorting recycling
- Data
- Where recycling + compost goes
- How to log your hours + Volunteer rewards
- Expectations
- Contacts + resources

Who we are

The Arkansas Union is making the conscious decision to align with campus sustainability goals such as 90% waste diversion from landfill and carbon neutrality by 2040.

The University of Arkansas has an ethical and moral obligation to help sustain Arkansas' beautiful scenery for future generations of Razorbacks to enjoy.

Waste Station

- Helps events achieve low- to no- waste
- Serves as a model for other buildings

Why?

- Maintain our current resources to benefit the future

How to set up station

Meet a sustainability team associate in the flag room on floor 3A of the Union and head downstairs to 1st floor operations

- All supplies will be set up in operations for you
- There will be snacks, music, and information pamphlets for you to take!
- Put on a pair of gloves and/or apron
- Prepare to sort!

Process

Cans

- Thoroughly shake all liquid from the can out into the liquid capture bin
- If the can has a plastic label, carefully remove with boxcutter
- Toss into designated can bin

Bottles

- Pour out all liquid into liquid capture bin
- Cap can stay on
- Carefully remove plastic label with boxcutter
- Identify if it is plastic #1 or #2 (most likely #1)

Other

- All items that are not cans or bottles can go in the waste bin

Process

Things to watch out for: Plastic #2

Plastic #2 is uncommon but we do get some– keep an eye out for very thick plastic and look for the label, usually at the bottom of the item.



Process

Magazines

- Remove staples with a staple remover
- place in mixed paper bin

Paper and paperboard

- Check for stains, staples, etc
- place in mixed paper bin
- If paperboard, make sure it is broken down, not still in box form, and make sure it is not waxed– waxed items cannot be recycled.

Cardboard

- Break down so it lays flat
- Place in cardboard bin
- Cardboard with food stains or tape is okay

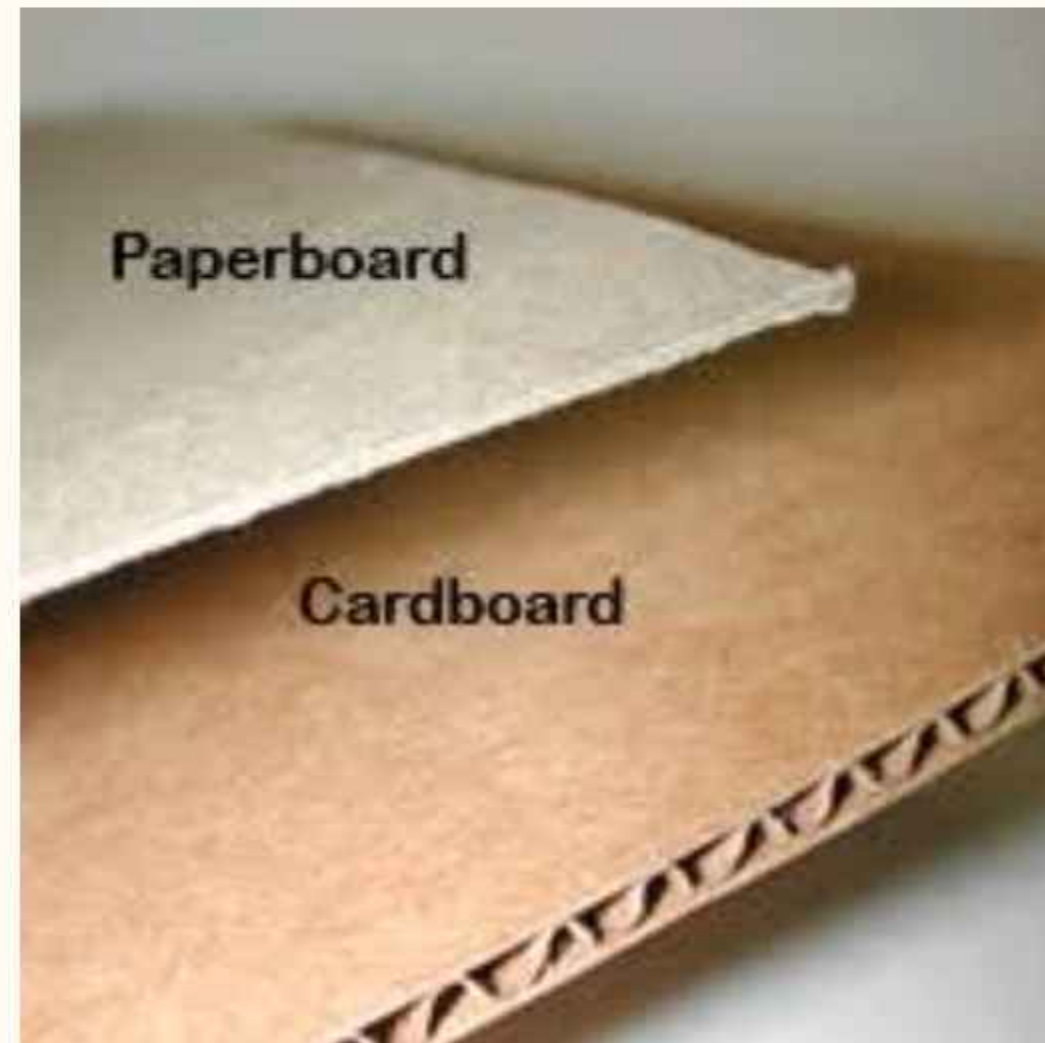
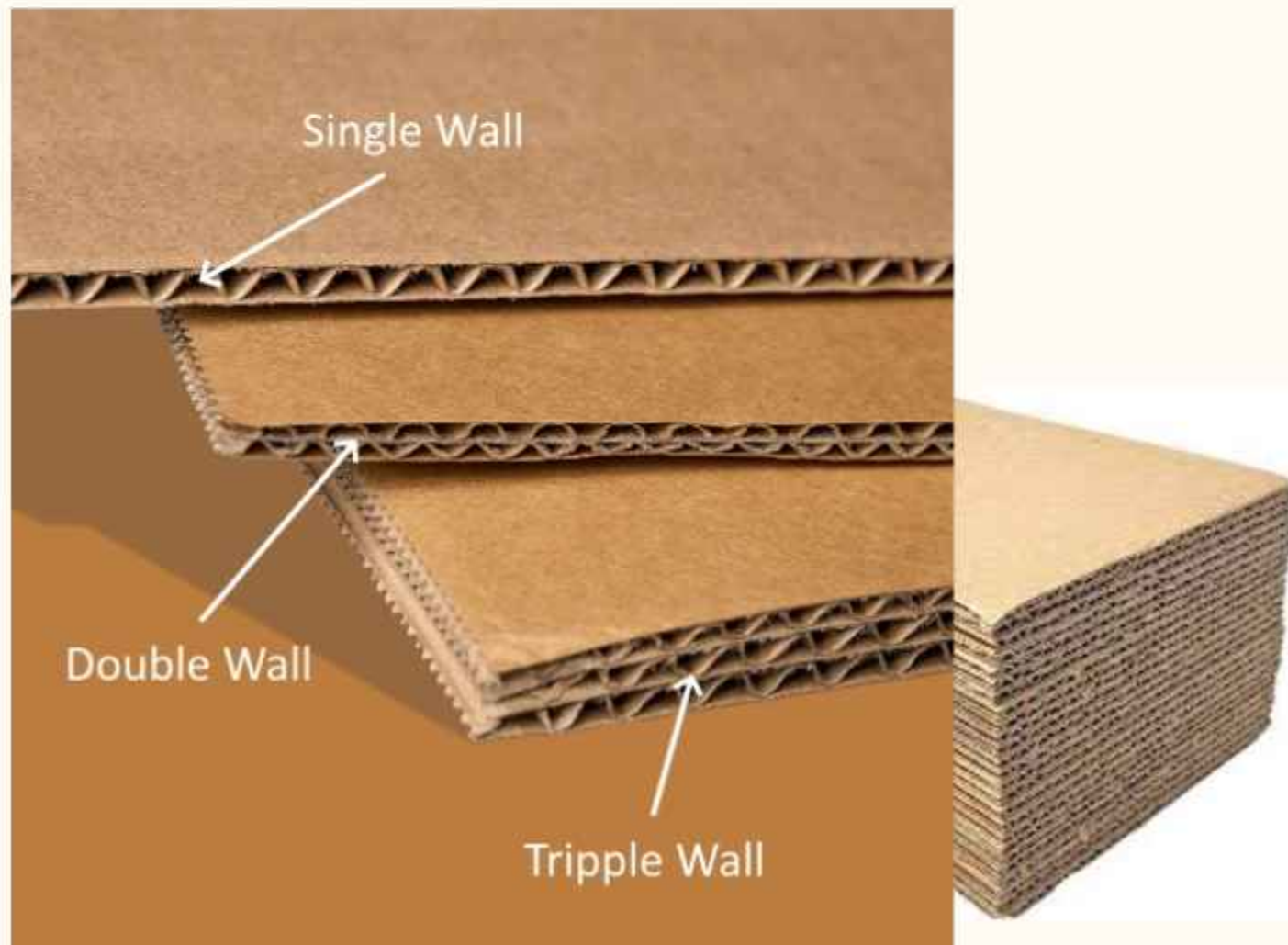
Mail

- Open envelopes with boxcutter
- Cut out any plastic window and remove all non-paper items before recycling

Process

Cardboard vs paperboard

Cardboard can be identified by the zigzag between the layers and must be recycled separately– if it is thin with only one layer, that is paperboard and can be put with mixed paper



Monitoring the Waste Station

Sorting waste (common mistakes)

- Chick-fil-a cups cannot be recycled
 - Nor anything with a waxy coating
- Most bottle caps can stay
- Some labels cannot be removed, such as smartwater- those can stay on
- Unused AND USED pizza boxes are okay in the cardboard bin

Note: This operation is a work in progress! Please send Ella Fei any **FAQ that people have** or any **items that people are frequently confused about how to recycle** so we can reference in the future

Where it goes

- City of Fayetteville helps recycle organics, cans and bottles
- Items get melted down and sold for reuse

Logging your service hours

uark.givepulse.com	Go to event page OR click email notification
Click "Log Impact"	Fill out details and submit
Wait for verification	You will get an email notifying when your Impact/hour(s) is verified

1. Sustainable events (avg. 1-2 hrs): 40 pts
2. Info/education SS (30 min): 10 pts
3. Sunday sorters (1-2 hrs): 30 pts

There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winner with *large prizes* for each

Expectations

We expect **clear communication**: if you cannot make it to your shift **please give us 24 hour notice**.

However, life happens – only in such cases, please let us know as soon as possible!

After three unexcused absences you will be excused from volunteering with us

Resources

- 1. Contact on-duty Sustainability Team Associate**
- 2. Contact Ella Fei, ARKU Sustainability Intern at
unionst@uark.edu or on Teams**
- 3. Find a Union help desk**

Questions?

Thank you!