

HARVARD RECYCLING



Campus Updates

Additional Surplus Hours

The Recycling and Surplus Center will once again offer additional open hours for Harvard affiliates and nonprofits! For those groups only, we are open Mondays from 10am to 1pm. For the general public, the center continues to be open on Thursdays from 10am to 1pm.

Approaching Waste Bans

Starting November 1st, there are a few expanded waste bans in Massachusetts. Mattresses and textiles (including clothes, shoes, bedding, towels, and curtains) will be completely banned from trash disposal, while food waste's allowable threshold is being lowered. We have existing diversion practices for these materials in the necessary buildings, but are expanding our diversion programs where needed! If you live or work in a Harvard-managed building that produces these items, but you aren't sure where to dispose of them, please [reach out](#).

Spring Semester Notes

To recap some highlights from the spring semester: we hosted our first pandemic-times waste audit, supported many campus Freecycles, and, through our Valentines Cosmetics Drive, collected nearly 500 pounds of donations for the YWCA of Cambridge! As the academic year ended in May, belated ceremonies and celebrations were held for the classes of 2020 and 2021, as

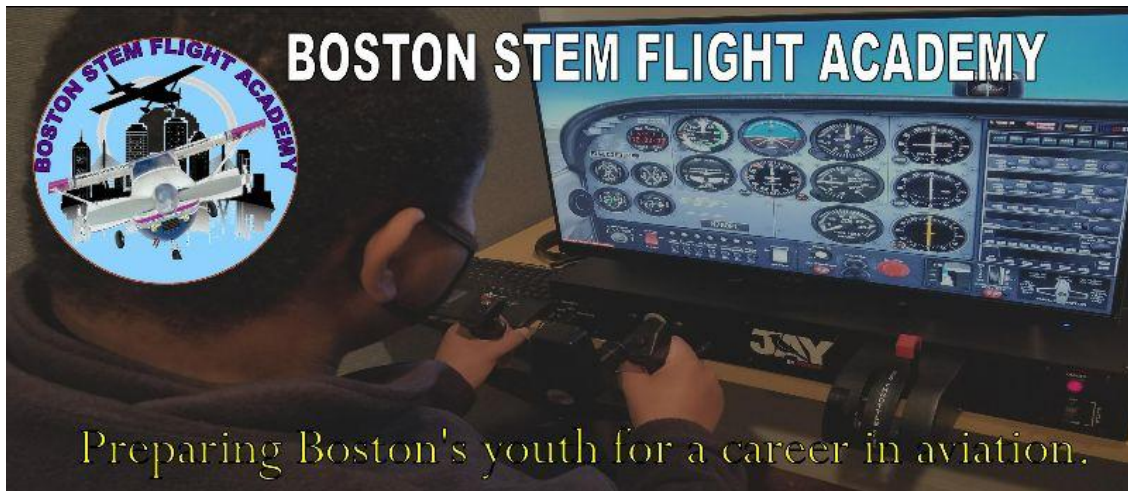
well as the current graduating class of 2022. On top of taking care of the waste from these events, our drivers were also managing student moveout. There were more than one hundred donation bins placed around campus, with our drivers collecting countless truckloads of clothes, furniture, appliances, housewares, and more on a daily basis. Collected items have benefited Habitat for Humanity, Furnishing Hope, and many community visitors to the Surplus Center. Keep reading below to learn about one program that's benefited!

Student Spotlight: Harvard Zero Waste

Soma Ramalingam, a TRUE Zero Waste Advisor, completed her Harvard Extension graduate capstone this past semester studying Harvard's waste world. She spent the last academic year thoroughly assessing campus waste systems, interviewing stakeholders, and researching solutions that could work for Harvard, culminating in a toolkit to help us work towards Zero Waste. In Soma's words: "Waste for me is a sign of inefficiency. My personal attempt to reduce waste was one of the key factors that led me to the Masters degree at Harvard. So I was really thrilled to be able to look at waste from a large-scale, systemic perspective through my capstone project. A zero waste journey requires personal action as well building infrastructure and changing the way products are manufactured. I believe Harvard is well positioned to be a leader in the space through its ability to influence individuals as well as businesses. I can't wait to see a future in which Harvard is a zero waste campus!!"

Surplus Going to Good Use: Local STEM Programs

A frequenter of Harvard's Recycling and Surplus Center, CleMarcus James has been collecting surplus items to benefit a STEM program he runs for Boston Public Schools and community programs in the area. In the program, students fly a Cessna 172 Skyhawk simulator, learning everything from basic flight maneuvers to advanced navigation. James says, "The program provides a gateway for the youth, a pathway for students interested in aviation."



Upcoming Reuse and Repair Events

Join us for a **Freecycle** in the Smith Campus Center Arcade on Tuesday, October 18th between 11am to 2pm! Bring any usable, but no longer needed office supplies, household items, and books, and browse items that others have brought. We are planning another Freecycle for December if you are unable to make this one.

Have you been holding onto any broken items in the hopes of repairing them? Come to our first post-2020 in-person **Fixit Clinic** and receive guidance from local fixers! Register your broken item ahead of time [here](#). The clinic will be Thursday, November 10th in Cabot Science Library from 11am to 2pm.

Campus Nature Watch: Coyotes



135 Western Ave.



District Energy Facility

Thanks to Nelson Medeiros and Susy Bunanta for the photos!

Resources

Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN)

PLAN offers a number of resources around campus waste reduction and diversion efforts. Anyone with a Harvard email can now access their library of case studies, toolkits, manuals, discounts on sustainable products, and more. To explore these resources, create a free account on their [website](#).

Podcasts

Who isn't doing a podcast these days? Thankfully, the podcast trend has even reached the waste world. Here are three of our recommendations, with plenty of episodes to catch up on:

- The [MassRecycle podcast](#), hosted by local experts Waneta Trabert and Gretchen Carey, has discussions and interviews with a wide variety of topics in the waste world. A worthy listen for any waste nerd!
- [People over Plastic](#) centers BIPOC activists in the movement against plastic pollution and production, focusing on the people and places that are often most affected by environmental harm, yet overlooked by mainstream environmental activism.
- [The Indisposable Podcast](#) from Upstream focuses on all aspects of the reuse movement, from successful programs to innovative companies and

policies.



Our mailing address is:

Harvard Recycling and Surplus Center

28 Travis St.

Allston, MA 02134