What I Do

Working for the Solid Waste Reduction has been a great experience. I have learned more about recycling and being green than I did before I was hired and even more so since we merged with Office for Sustainability. The environment and community within the office is warm and inviting. It has more of a family feel than it does a work place. Working here has allowed me to expand my interest in going green from a hobby to a part of my everyday life.

I have recently been working on a number of promotional projects. The first is putting together a sign for the clean-up staff of Lawson Arena and Read Fieldhouse indicating what can and can’t be recycled in these facilities. I am also working on other signs for the residence halls. I have made four signs informing students about the various aspects of what we value here at the Office for Sustainability. The first sign is titled How to Get Involved, which lists and describes the different “activities” to be a part of, such as Open Bike Shop, the Student Farm, volunteer opportunities, and the Bronco Share Space. The second is What Can and Can’t be Recycled. This poster consists of various pictures indicating what is and isn’t appropriate to recycle. The third, called Fun Facts, categorizes each area of recyclables with a number of facts about each. The last poster, titled, Ways to Be Sustainable, and shows how to incorporate being sustainable into your everyday life.

The next project that I’m working on is updating the Solid Waste Reduction Website and incorporating it into the Office for Sustainability’s website. This is a collaborative project that I’m working on with Leigha. The last job assigned to me for the semester is RecycleMania. I am to find different ways to promote this recycling competition to those of us at Western.

These projects have been challenging and time consuming but strangely enough a bit enjoyable. Doing something that’s interesting is always important. Even though my job is just a small blip on the overall radar, I feel that getting the word out and presenting helpful information is the first step to making a difference. So if the Office of Sustainability can make a difference with the students at Western, it’s only a matter of time before those students can make a difference with others.