



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

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## **GOLD AND WHITE GOES GREEN**

New Orleans LA – Over a span of five years, Xavier University of Louisiana has saved \$5 million in energy and water costs. It also recycles approximately 1,600 pounds of wasteful materials every two weeks – waste that otherwise would be dumped at a landfill.

But it wants to do more.

The Office of Facility Planning and Management recently kicked off its new ‘Gold and White Goes Green’ campaign announcing the University’s improved recycling program.

“The purpose of ‘greening the campus’ is to prepare Xavier for the anticipated social, environmental, and regulatory challenges, said Dr. Latonia Viverette Batiste, director of sustainability and energy efficiency. “We want to guide the campus towards becoming a more sustainable institution and prepare our students for the green economy.”

During the Kickoff event, members of the department – clad in green – talked with students, faculty, and staff about the importance of resource efficiency and sustainability. At the conclusion of each conversation, those in attendance were asked to take an on-line pledge as a sign of their commitment to the cause.

“We have a number of things happening around the campus that’s directly related to sustainability, but no one knows about them so this is our way of reintroducing some of the things we’ve done and hopefully generate interest,” said Marian Bracy, vice president of facility planning and management.

In the past, only paper was recycled, now it’s paper, plastic and aluminum.

Recycle bins are being distributed to offices, residence halls and other parts of campus. Twice a week, the items will be collected and discarded in purple bins located in four designated areas. An independent recycling company will collect the items and sort for recycling and/or reuse.

The recycling company will monitor Xavier's collections and provide reports of the progress made.

Bracy and Batiste say having the campus involved is a win-win for Xavier and the environment.

"We're saving energy and water while reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills as well as conserving natural resources and preventing pollution," said Bracy.

Moving forward, the department will host a number of events to keep recycling on the minds of those roaming Xavier's campus for years to come.

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