Diverting waste from landfills
by Ruth Davis & Jarrod Jones

The Recycling team receives an average of 400 work requests a month with most completed the next day.

Bins for all types of recycling

In May 2013, a Recycling Box truck was converted into a show place for the Women’s League’s Furniture Exchange. The goal of the Pop Up FX was to encourage people to donate unwanted items and how one can furnish your home using items from organizations like the Salvation Army, and the FX, of course!

How much does MIT Recycle?
The amount varies, but on average we recycle each month:

- Single Stream: 105 tons
- Food waste: 13 tons
- Electronics and technocycle: 4.5 tons
- Construction & Demolition: 25 tons
- Wood: 9 tons
- Metal: 1 ton

That adds up to a recycling rate of 49% annually.

In addition, we are working with the Procurement Office to expand vendor take back of styrofoam regularly from labs in Buildings 76 and 68.

Stamp out Styrofoam
As part of Earth Week 2014, we partnered with the EHS Office and Office of Sustainability to pilot a lab styrofoam recycling project.

During the week of April 21, working with Custodial Services, 762 pieces were collected and recycled rather than going into the trash. This fall we extended the pilot and now pick up styrofoam regularly from labs in Buildings 76 and 68.

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In addition, we are working with the Procurement Office to expand vendor take back of styrofoam to reduce the amount needing to be recycled.