

July 2025

Program Report

Bobcats Give Back 2025



TEXAS  STATE
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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Our Mission

Our mission is to engage the Texas State community as a champion for environmental stewardship and economic expansion while fostering a culture of sustainability that permeates all aspects of the campus experience. We believe that sustainability is a collaborative, interdisciplinary field to which all members of the Texas State community contribute.





2025 Report

Introduction



What is Bobcats Give Back?

Approximately 38.23 million tons of waste ends up in Texas landfills annually. Lead by the Office of Sustainability and supported by the Department of Housing and Residential Life and Texas State University Facilities, Bobcats Give Back is Texas State University's premier move-out waste recovery program, aimed at diverting the sharp increase in unwanted items and materials produced during the move-out period from reaching local landfills.

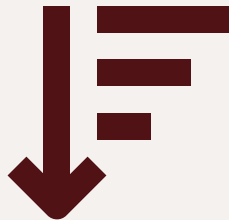
Implementation

Through a systematic donation collection process and redistribution network, Bobcats Give Back provides sustainable alternatives to students looking to dispose of materials as they move off campus, effectively reducing landfill waste while providing free nonperishable foods, household goods, and more to local residents and nonprofits. The 2025 program was composed of a three phases, each utilizing support from different university and community partners.

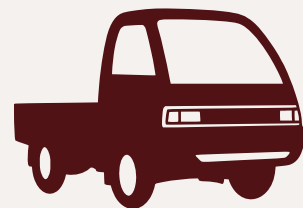
I. In-House Collection



II. Weighing & Sorting



III. Non - Profit Pick Up



Importance

Bobcats Give Back addresses each of the three pillars of sustainability, illustrating the intersectional benefits derived in one of the fastest growing counties in the country when institutions promote efforts to decrease waste production.

Economy

In a world of finite resources but infinite demand, it is both sustainable and increasingly necessary to promote a circular economy focused on limited raw material use, designing resource friendly products, and recapturing waste for continued reworking. Bobcats Give Back applies this concept by reducing need for residents and students to purchase new items, and rerouting textiles, metals, plastics, and more to appropriate resource recovery sites for continued usage.

Social Demand

As cost of living continues to rise, marginalized communities are impacted the most by increasing housing, food, school supplies, and healthcare costs. Programs like Bobcats Give Back assist in alleviating socioeconomic inequality by redistributing excess materials towards those who would benefit from them most.

Environment

According to a report on Texas municipal solid waste conducted by TCEQ, the estimated statewide landfill capacity in 2022 was 51 years. As population continues to grow, expanding urbanization along the I-35 corridor will place greater pressure on the natural resources of Central Texas, including water and open space. At Texas State University especially, environmental sustainability initiatives are vital to effectively manage the impact of record-breaking student body growth.



Program History.

Pre-2018

Bobcats Give Back has its roots in Texas State's former **Pack It Up Pass It On** program, which was managed by Kim Porterfield within the TXST Department of Housing and Residential Life. Organized in a very similar manner to today's Bobcats Give Back, Pack It Up Pass It On consisted of collecting donations from residence halls and redistributing them to San Marcos residents in a **"garage-sale setting"** at the LBJ Student Center.



2018-2021

From the years 2018 to 2021, the City of San Marcos Resource Recovery Division under the Neighborhood Enhancement Department managed the program, with the assistance of TXST Office of Sustainability, then **named Bobcats Give Back**, and shifted focus to collecting donations from **student apartments**. The pilot program in 2018 serviced 11 student apartments and collected 467 pounds of items. By 2021, the number of apartments with donation sites increased to 13, with 2,296 pounds of material collected over a period of 5 weeks.

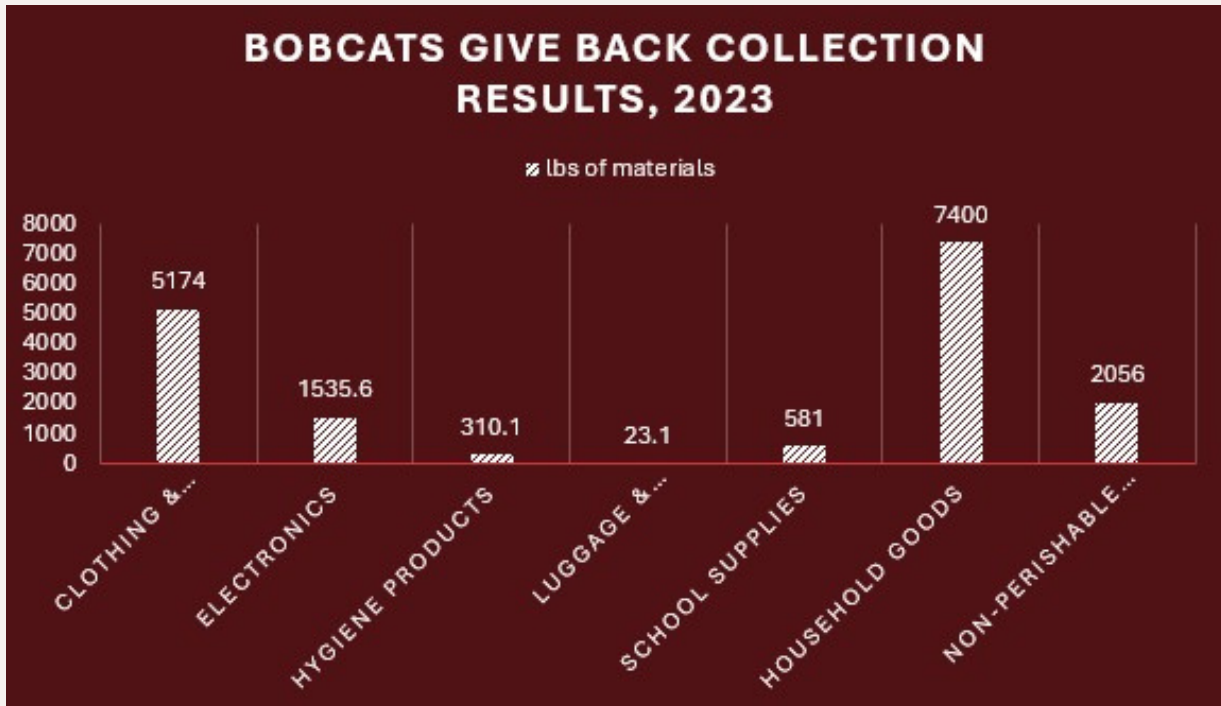


2022-2023

In 2022, the City of San Marcos partnered with the **Texas State University Department of Housing and Residential Life** and **Office of Sustainability** to bring Bobcats Give Back to campus, servicing 20 residence halls in addition to 22 apartments. Operations for sorting, weighing, and redistributing materials took place in the City of San Marcos Reuse Warehouse. The duration of donation sites in on-campus housing increased from 1 week in 2022 to 2 weeks in 2023.



2023 Summary



2

week on-campus collection period

19

residence hall donation sites

17,686.5

lbs. of materials collected from residence halls

Top Contributing Residence Halls

1. Falls/Sayers.....1,8881 lbs
2. College Inn.....1,574.3 lbs
3. San Jacinto.....1,466.4 lbs
4. Bobcat Village.....1,249.7 lbs
5. Sterry.....1,293 lbs

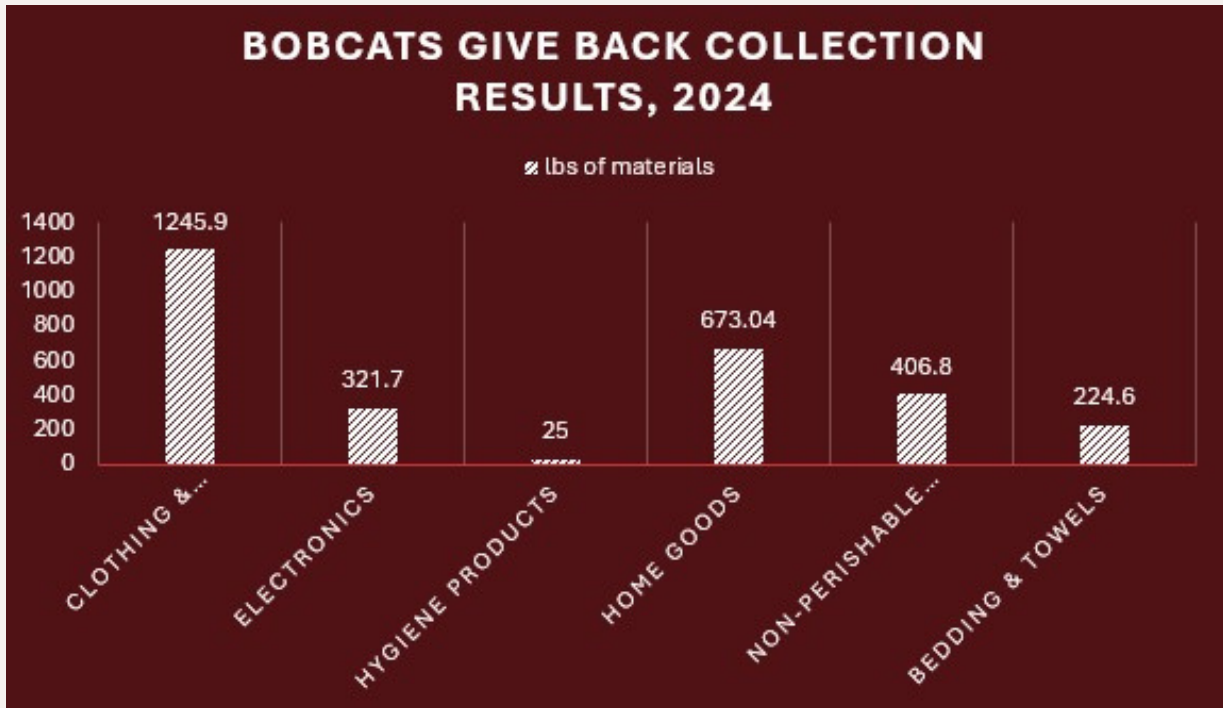
Coordinating Entities



TEXAS STATE
HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

TEXAS STATE
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

2024 Summary



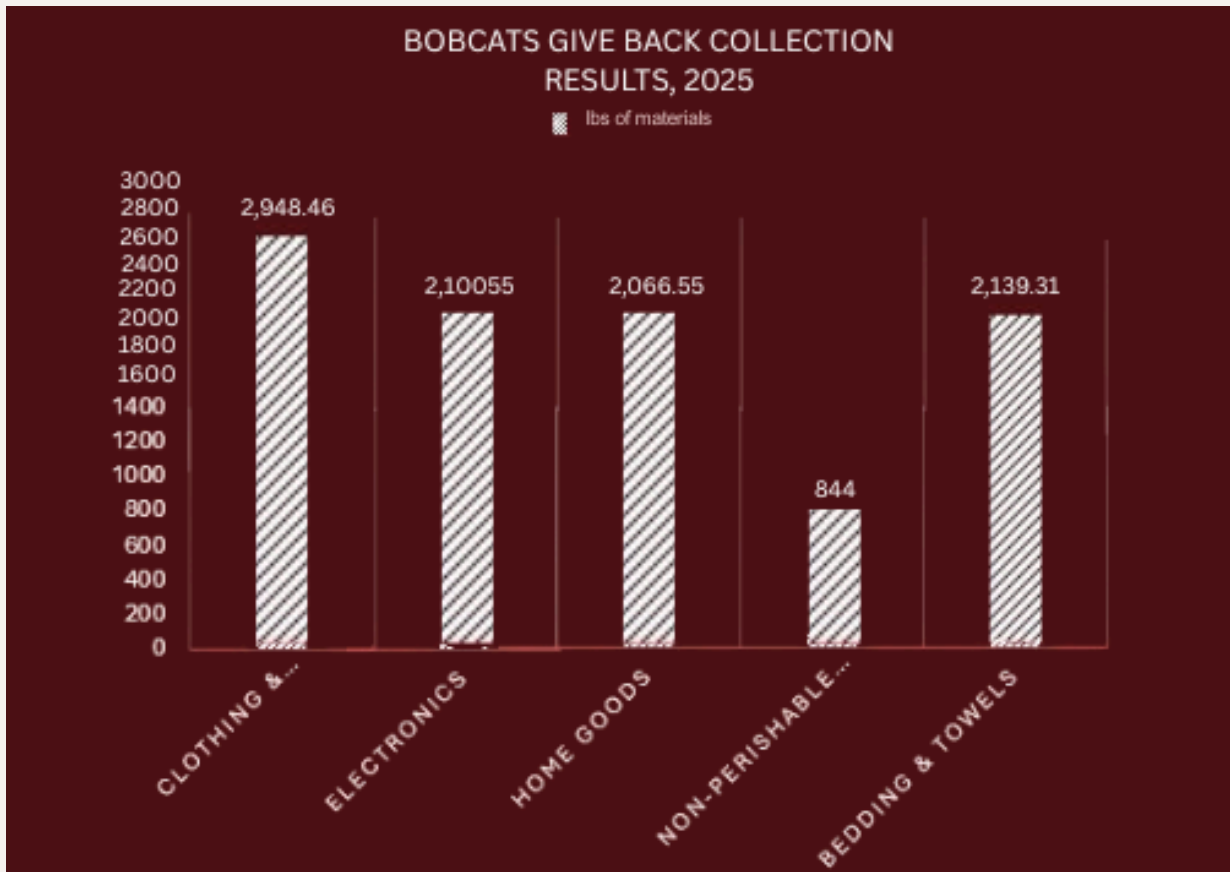
1 week on-campus collection period	2 day drive-thru collection	19 residence hall donation sites	2,897.04 lbs. of materials collected from residence halls
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Top Contributing Residence Halls

- O'Shea/FirstFive.....217.4 lbs
- College Inn.....180.3 lbs
- Falls/Sayers.....167.6 lbs
- Blanco.....158.1 lbs
- Sterry.....154.7 lbs

Coordinating Entities

2025 Summary.



1

week on-campus collection period

22

residence hall donation sites

10,098.32

lbs. of materials collected from residence halls

**BOBCATS
GIVE BACK**



A New Take on Move-Out. Waste Less. [Donate More.](#)

Coordinating Entities

TEXAS STATE FACILITIES

TEXAS STATE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE

TEXAS STATE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY



2025 Report

Phase I: In-House Collection

Preparation

Forging Partnerships

The planning stage for Bobcats Give Back 2025 involved collaboration to a great extent between various university entities and the City of San Marcos. Thanks to support from these partners, the Office of Sustainability was able to not only execute BGB, but also lay infrastructure and establish essential relationships for future sustainability programming efforts.

Program Partners	Support
Department of Housing and Residential Life	Donation site placement and maintenance
Facilities Management	Sorting warehouse space designation and staffing
Grounds and Waste Management	Collection and sorting staffing, supplies, & warehouse management
City of San Marcos - Resource Recovery	Donation site placement and sorting



Bobcats Give Back storage location at 1727 Old Ranch Road 12

BOBCATS GIVE BACK

MAKING GREEN THE NEW MAROON

Bobcats Give Back is a yearly donation drive that works to divert usable items away from landfills and give them back to the community. Every year tons of items are thrown away during moveout. Bobcat Gives Back will put these items back into circulation through collaboration with our on- and off-campus community.

Join Our Donation Drive and Make an Impact!

- Here's how your contributions will help:
- Donations to the local community via nonprofit partners.
 - Divert usable items from landfills.
 - Contribution to on campus programs such as open closet and swap shop.



Promotional Instagram posts and print flyers

VOLUNTEER FOR

Bobcats Give Back

A yearly donation drive during moveout season

Calling all individuals and organizations! If you are interested in helping the community or getting volunteer hours, help us sort and distribute donated items!



Promotion

Promotion for BGB reached students through a variety of different communication methods including:

- Subpage on Office of Sustainability website
- Social media posts
- Parent and Family Relations emails
- DHRL emails to student residents
- Campus and residence hall digital signage
- Flyers in academic buildings

Results

Donation Site Setup

Donation stations for the In-House Collection period were placed in residence hall common areas, and composed of 6 - 9 plastic Brute containers labeled with appropriate signage for each category of accepted item. Larger capacity residence halls received an extra bin for the most commonly donated materials like clothing and bedding. Resident and Desk Assistants provided support during collection by maintaining and supervising donation sites.



Sterry Hall Bobcats Give Back donation site, prior to collection

Program Timeline

- From April 28th to May 8th program was conducted across all Residence Halls.
- On April 28th, collection bins were readied, signed, and designated for each hall, involving the transport of bins from a storage unit to the Central Plant located at 120 Buckner St. via a TXST truck, where they were organized, labeled, and pre-stacked.
- Bin setup in Residence Halls was completed on April 29th with assistance from both on and off-campus volunteers, alongside support from community members.
- Daily checks on bins and collections were conducted as needed from April 30th to May 7th to ensure smooth operation and timely removal of donations.
- Program supplies were removed from Residence Halls on May 8th, and Resident Assistants on duty were notified of the program's conclusion.



BY THE NUMBERS



Site Monitoring

To manage the collection process efficiently, Halls were grouped, and “team captains” were assigned responsibility for each group.

- Day 1: Captains distributed extra bin liners and scales to each hall, introduced themselves as points of contact to Resident and Desk Assistants on duty, and requested assistance from with weighing and removing full bags and to be notified when additional collection was needed.
- Daily Operations: Captains were responsible for checking bins in their assigned halls, replacing full bags as needed, and transporting full bags to the central plant for weighing and sorting. Volunteers provided assistance when available.

Residence Hall Groupings

- **Group 1:** Blanco, Falls Sayers, Bexar, San Marcos, First Freedom Five, Elena Zamora O’Shea
- **Group 2:** Hilltop, Jackson, Chautauqua Gaillardia Complex, College Inn
- **Group 3:** Laurel, Retama, Mesquite, Brogdon, Butler, Lantana, Sterry, Tower Hall



2025 Report

Phase II: Weighing & Sorting

Transportation

Daily, full collection bags were transported from each Residence Hall to the Central Plant at 120 Buckner St. by "Team Captains" and volunteers. They utilized TXST vehicles from Facilities and the Office of Sustainability's Gold Cart for transport. Upon arrival, the bags were weighed and meticulously sorted into categories to fulfill specific requests from our non-profit partners, streamlining the pick-up process.

Sorting and Organization

With crucial on-the-ground support from TXST Utilities and Facilities staff, Sustainability Squad volunteers, and student interns, all collected materials were meticulously sorted into subcategories and organized at the Central Plant, making them easily accessible for pickup. Any items unsuitable for redistribution were responsibly recycled, trashed, or sent to other appropriate disposal facilities. To prevent accumulation and ensure that non-profit partners consistently received the specific items they needed, pickup days were strategically staggered.

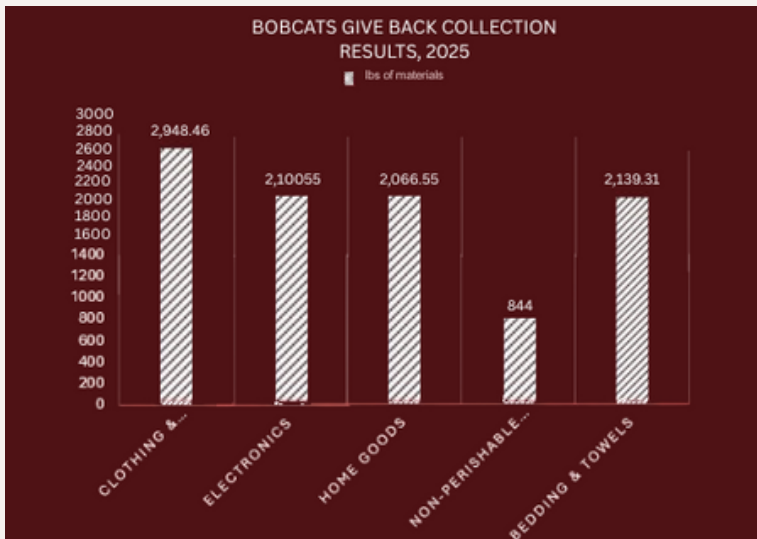
Outreach

The Office of Sustainability utilized connections from previous years' programming to reach out to local organizations and nonprofits. Contact information was gained through coordination with the City of San Marcos staff.

Representatives of organizations were able to schedule pickup times using a form on the Bobcats Give Back website and notify which specific items they were in need of, so the requested materials could be set aside for their pick up.



TXST staff and volunteers sort materials at Central Plant





2025 Report

Phase III: Non- Profit Pick Up

Item Distribution

The following Non- Profits requested the following items:

New Braunfels Housing Partners - Collected clothing for their thrift store as well as Kitchen items, cleaning supplies, bedding, microwaves, mini fridges, dressers, and anything that helps Women and families in transitional housing.

Helping Hands Warehouse - Kitchen items, bedding, microwaves, mini fridges, televisions.

Southside Community Center - Collected bedding, microwaves and mini fridges

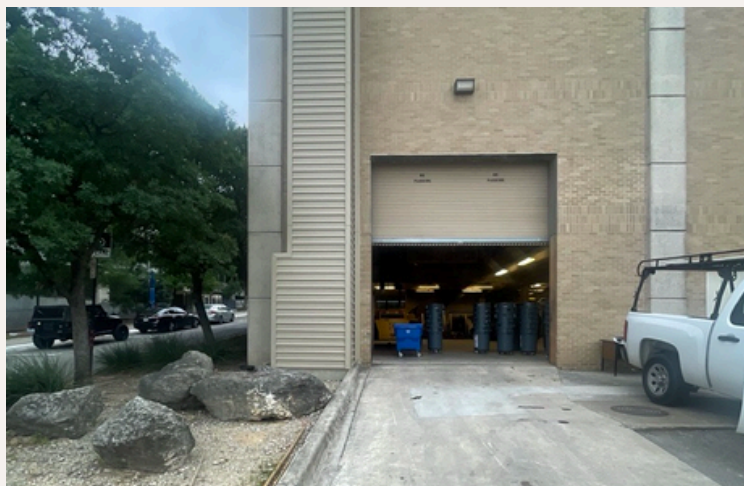
Teacher Reuse - Collected glass containers, notebooks, organizational bins, art supplies.

Hays County Food Bank - Collected all non-perishable pantry items.

Good Will - Collected all viable items that could not be used by other Non- Profit Partners. This included mostly clothing, decor, and bedding



Staff helping New Braunfels Housing Partners collect clothing for thrift store.



Pick up location Behind Central Plant - 120 Buckner Street

Procedure

Non - Profits were contacted prior to collection to set up times for their pick-up as to not overlap with pick up times of non-profits seeking the same items. Non- profits reported to Central Plant, where they could easily load their vehicles with the assistance of Staff and volunteers



2025 Financial Report

Monetary Commitments

Office of Sustainability - \$567.55

Masking Tape: \$29.96

Sharpies : \$24.59

Hand held Scales (19) : \$513

Facilities - \$1,230

Conex Storage Container: \$780.00

Uhual Vehicle Rental:\$450.00

In-Kind Donations

Grounds, Recycling & Waste Mgmt.

Brute Containers + Bins

Can Liners

Staffing

Facilities

TXSTBoxTruck

Staffing





2025 Report

Carbon Footprint Study

Quantifying Emissions

These data points are estimates based off of the measurements of diverted waste and factors sourced from EPA's Waste Reduction Model

Bobcats Give Back Spring 2025 program prevented the emission of approximately:

14.2 metric tons of CO2

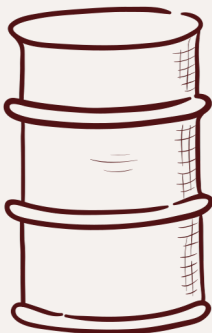


Emissions Savings By Category:

- Household Goods = 12,251.65 lbs CO2
- Clothing = 10,586.47 lbs CO2
- Bedding = 7,675.08 lbs CO2
- Food = 784.921 lbs CO2

Visualizing Impact

14.2 Metric Tons of CO2 is equivalent to:



burning 1,590 gallons of gasoline



Running 500 laptops non-stop for a year



Charging 3.7 million smartphones

This amount is equivalent to carbon sequestered by **370 tree seedlings** grown for **10 years**.



2025 Summary

Conclusion

Program Successes

Despite significant organizational shifts and a reduced budget, the Bobcats Give Back program achieved remarkable success in 2025, largely due to enhanced program organization and coordination. The Office of Sustainability, taking on primary sponsoring responsibilities from the City of San Marcos and navigating new staffing, successfully collaborated with its university partners to not only meet their 2025 goals but also lay a strong foundation for future initiatives. This included the successful collection and redistribution of over 10,000 pounds of materials, demonstrating significant waste diversion and community support, all while adapting to a more streamlined operational model.

Proactive Approach

The Bobcats Give Back 2025 program, successfully collected and redistributed over 10,000 pounds of materials from Texas State University's Residence Halls, significantly diverting waste from landfills and supporting local non-profits. Consistent daily checks and collections, managed by dedicated "team captains," were crucial in ensuring smooth operations, minimal dumping, and reduced contamination throughout the program. This proactive approach was significantly bolstered by strong collaboration with Residence Assistants (RAs). Presenting the program to RAs prior to implementation, along with their assistance in pulling and replacing bin liners and notifying Office of Sustainability staff when additional collection was needed, allowed us to effectively stay on top of demand and maintain site integrity until the final days of the program.

Higher Quality Donations



2023



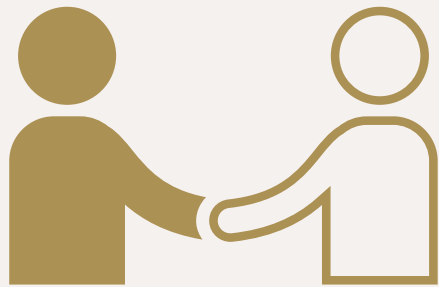
2024

One of the major struggles from previous years' programming was the consistent overwhelming of donation stations with both accepted items and various types of garbage that quickly became unmanageable and unsafe. With increased communication with RAs, as well as a shorter in-house collection period, donation sites were far cleaner, more organized, and supervised. This prevented messes within residence halls, and produced higher quality donations which could more easily be redistributed.

Areas for Improvement

Support and Involvement

As student enrollment at Texas State University continues to hit record numbers each semester, the need for more institutional support for sustainability initiatives also increases. Bobcats Give Back in its previous lives was a program managed by multiple entities. For continuity, additional support is needed from those with direct roles in the on-campus move-out process. Service capacity of Bobcats Give Back can be increased in future years through greater involvement and investment from other university departments.



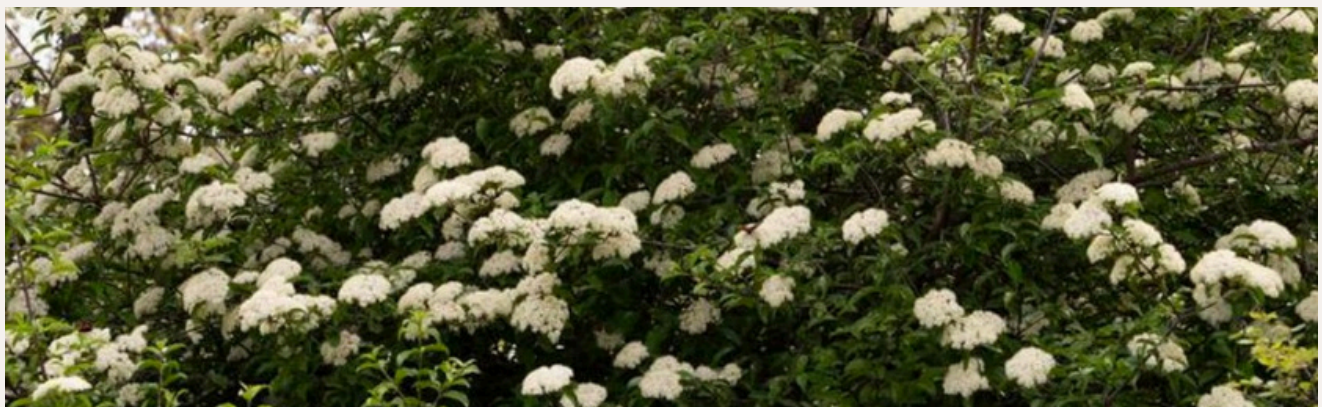
Communication

Several areas for improvement were identified to enhance future program efficiency and communication. Noticed discrepancies between planning and implementation led to some inefficiencies, and there was confusion among non-profits and volunteers regarding meeting locations. An imbalance in volunteer allocation, with overstaffing during low demand and understaffing during peak times, also impacted operations. Furthermore, post-bin removal dumping by students highlighted a need for clearer communication regarding program end dates. Future programs should focus on clearly posting end dates, ensuring RAs are fully informed, providing informative sheets at residence hall desks, improving coordination with partners, and optimizing volunteer scheduling to address these issues



Moving Forward

With the recent construction of new residence halls and plans for more in the near future, the population of TXST students living on-campus will be expanding strain on the natural resources and infrastructure of both the university and the San Marcos community. This growth will make large scale initiatives like Bobcats Give Back increasingly essential to reduce waste and ensure long term sustainability of campus life.





Thank you

The success of Bobcats Give Back would not be possible without the support of our partners and especially our collaboration with the Department of Housing and Residential Life. We look forward to our continued collaboration and further opportunities to make meaningful impacts on campus together!

For questions or comments, please contact the Texas State University Office of Sustainability at sustainability@txstate.edu
