

Stationery Reuse @UNSW Sydney, Australia

The Stationery Reuse Centre is like Harry Potter's Room of Requirement, except for stationery. Whether you forget your pens for the day or you are organising your notes, the Centre is exactly what you need. Stationery is donated by companies, preventing it from going to landfill, and students get stationery for free.

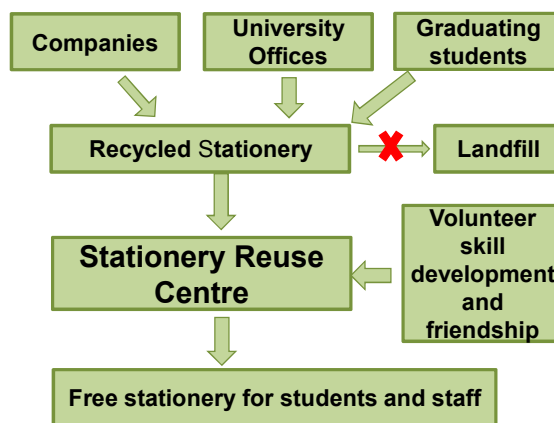


The Stationery Reuse Centre first opened in 2000, and has been run as a volunteer program for the past three years. Now 40 volunteers and one part time employee, all university students, look after the centre.

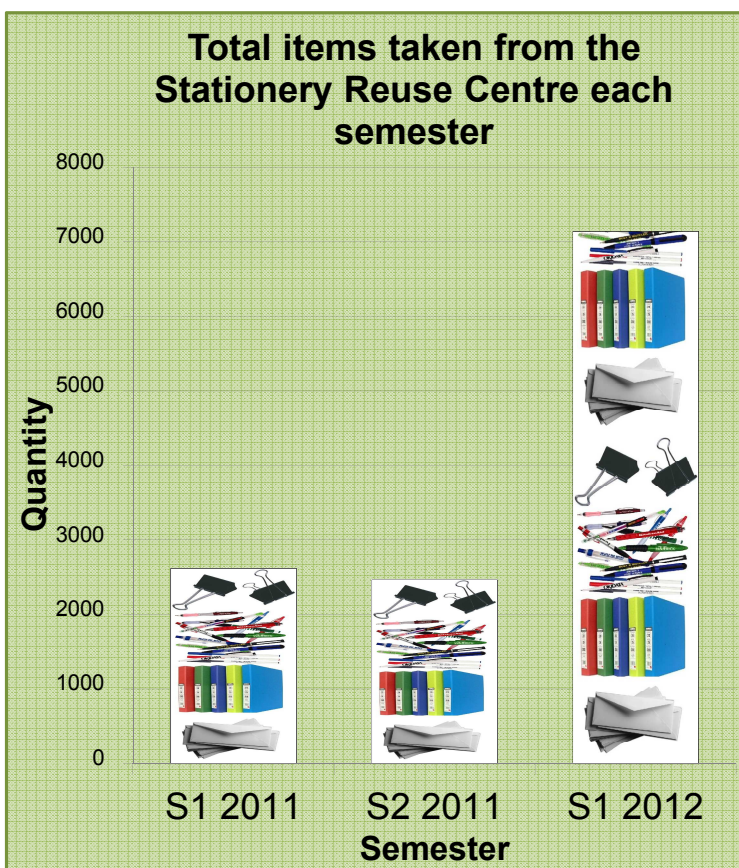
Donations have ranged from balloons, party supplies, paper, staples, pens, sticky tape, document wallets, hanging files and most commonly, folders. Donations mainly come from companies in the city, with Colgate-Palmolive regularly donating, while city firms moving office and university offices take advantage of it too.

In the last 12 months (June-July) the Stationery Reuse Centre had over 3050 visitors, approximately 40% of which were new customers. So far in 2012, there have been 7144 preloved or unused stationery items walk through the Centre's doors. It is clear from this that the Stationery Reuse Centre is both saving money for students and diverting perfectly useful items from landfill.

- If we estimate the average cost of an item to be AU\$1.50, the Stationery Reuse Centre has saved students over \$10 700.
- University staff make use of this resource too, although they are only 3% of the Centre's customer base.
- Folders account for approximately half of the items that pass through the Centre.
- Where 1 folder weighs around 250 grams, 875kg of folders alone have been diverted from landfill so far this year.



This year has seen an increase in usage from 2011, when just over 5000 items were taken through the course of the whole year. The increase in usage of the Stationery Reuse Centre is mostly due to an increasing awareness of the existence of the centre, and its inclusion in campus directory apps, campus tours and a larger team of volunteers able to welcome inquisitive people inside.



Our Youtube Channel



Our Website



UNSW AUSTRALIA

