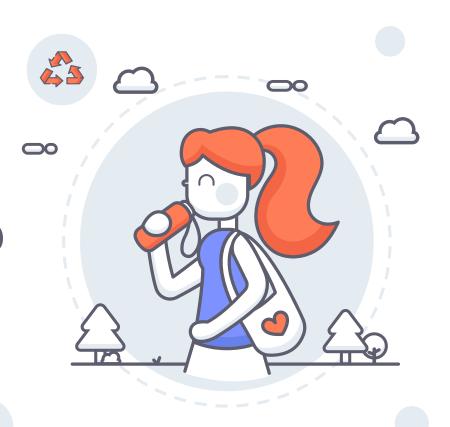


Recyclopedia App

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Project Origin

- Enrolled in BU's Cross College Challenge, XC 433 (Zero Waste Module)
 - The idea: a platform to improve student recycling behavior
 - All three of us found the idea quite exciting and decided to work as a team
- After working on the project throughout the semester, we pitched the idea of transforming the Recyclopedia resource (which already exists in website form) into an app
 - Concept behind this was to improve student confidence about recycling
 - The app will allow users to scan or search an item and find out whether or not it is recyclable
- Worked on this project and after our final presentation, we were funded by BU
 Campus Climate Lab to help create the application









Background Research

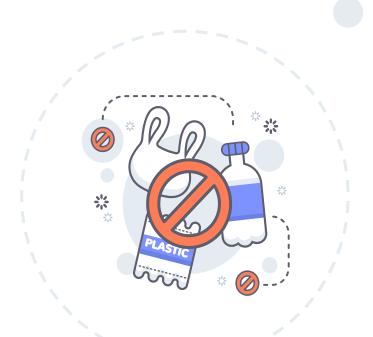
- Conducted survey of the BU student body to confirm there is a problem with recycling knowledge and confidence
 - 90 respondents, 96.7% recycle at least sometimes
 - Only 3.3% are "extremely comfortable" in their knowledge recyclable
 - o 11.1% believe BU has sufficiently educated them about recycling
 - o 77.8% say that an app would help them recycle more accurately
- Ran an experiment on **fourteen** BU students to see if the Recyclopedia resource improves this problem
 - Asked students to sort **six** common waste objects
 - O Half had access to Recyclopedia, half did not
 - Recyclopedia improved sorting accuracy by 22% (66.6% vs. 88.6%)
 - O Recyclopedia improved self reported recycling confidence scores by **1.8 points** (7.1 out of 10 vs. 8.9 out of 10)



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App Development Research

- Inside of Boston University
 - o Sustainability@BU
 - o BU Spark
 - Helps students create apps
 - o BU SAIL
 - Software & Application Innovation Lab
- Outside of Boston University
 - Jake Aronskind
 - Independent app developer
 - Recollect
 - Private sector app developer



Two Viable Options:

Recollect

- Recollect, a private company that makes recycling apps and websites for universities
- Estimate for this kind of project: \$4,230
- Fast and professional, BUT not student-led

BU Spark

- BU Spark X-Lab UXD Client to further develop the idea
- Then, BU Spark Software
 Engineering Practicum takes it from there
- Student-led, BUT could take more time



Outcome and Next Steps

- After going through the application process with BU Spark, we recently found out we will be a "client" in the UXD (user experience design) Program this semester!
 - Student software developers at Spark will be moving forward with our project idea
 - We will meet with our developers, keep track of the progress made on the project, and consult with them about the design and functionality of the app
 - We will share our CCL and XCC research with the development team



Acknowledgements

We would like to say a huge thank you to:

- → The Campus Climate Lab, for funding and supporting this work
- → Professor Rebecca Kinraide for encouraging this project since its inception
- → Lisa Tornatore and Kaity Robbins from Sustainability@BU for encouraging us to apply for funding
- → Greta Bruce from BU Spark for involving us in that program
- → Meghan Vidakovic from Recollect for explaining private sector recycling app creation
- → Jeff Simeon from SAIL for helping us reframe our problem



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Feel free to reach out with any questions!

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