TO: Campus Community

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President

I ask you to consider supporting the University of Montana's recycling program (UM Recycle) through payroll deduction. UM Recycle collects and processes about one half ton of materials a day, diverting those materials from the landfill and shrinking UM’s carbon and water footprints. UM Recycle employs and trains numerous students, supervises numerous interns, and will be cooperating with a new course offered in Recycling Technology.

A UM Recycling intern calculated that over one 15 year period, UM Recycle diverted an estimated 3,000 tons of materials from the landfill, cutting waterborne pollution by 12 tons and reducing air pollution the equivalent of taking more than 1,700 cars off the roads. In addition, UM Recycle saved at least 24,000 trees and 82 billion BTUs of energy; enough to power more than 780 homes for a year.

UM Recycle can accomplish much more with increased support. UM Recycle currently receives about 80 percent of its funds from a student recycling fee ($4 per student per semester). With increased funding, UM Recycle can handle more materials, put them back in circulation faster, keep recycling stations neater, and hire and train more students to work in recycling, a growing job opportunity.

Years ago, the University established a payroll deduction plan to enable faculty, staff, and administrators to join students in supporting recycling. At that time, several hundred faculty, staff, and administrators accepted the opportunity. However, participation has dwindled over time. We write now to remind the campus community of this important program and to urge your support.

This is an opportunity for the University to become a model of sustainability for our community and other campuses. You may give whatever amount works for your budget; no contribution is too small or too large. As a challenge to the campus community, the Office of the President will match the total campus contribution, up to $1,000 per year.

To participate, please complete a payroll deduction form: http://www.umt.edu/hrs/Personnel%20Resources/Payroll/Recycling%20Program%20Contribution.php.

IMPORTANT: Your signature is required, so please print, complete, sign, and send the form via campus mail to: Anita Brown, Human Resource Services. Be sure to write "UM Recycling" in the "Deduction Name" line at the bottom of the form.
We hope all faculty, staff, and administrators will consider joining our students in supporting the campus recycling program. Thank you.

We have sent this message to your umontana e-mail address because you are an employee at the University of Montana. If this is not correct, please do not reply to this message; contact Human Resource Services to update your status. To contact President Engstrom, please write to prestalk@umontana.edu.