

NOTEWORTHY FACTS

The Lighten Your Load Program has been very successful since its inaugural year. Here are a few interesting statistics about the program:

- Some 60 fifty-five gallon recycling bins were employed in the collections process in addition to 3 flatbed trucks.
- Thus far, the Lighten Your Load Program has collected more than 6,500 lbs. of clothes.
- In just 2 years, over 3,500 lbs. of food has been donated to local charities through Lighten Your Load.
- Several truckloads of lumber were donated to Habitat for Humanity for local projects.



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY HOUSING

If you are interested in volunteering or participating in the Lighten Your Load Program, please contact the Housing Program Administrator, Gary Gaulin, at 864-656-5445, or the Clemson Recycling Program Coordinator, Charlie Butts, at 864-656-2040.

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
HOUSING**

THE LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD PROGRAM

The Tiger invites you to participate each spring semester in the Lighten Your Load Program by recycling your non-perishable food items, clothes, household goods, and loft materials.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Lighten Your Load Program is a collaborative effort between the CU Housing Department, which promotes the program through its residents and employees, and the CU Recycling Department, which collects and distributes donated materials. The collected materials consist of unwanted items students donate as they move out of the residence halls at the end of the spring semester. Items collected as part of the program include clothes, household items, non-perishable foods, and building materials such as lumber from lofts.

Oftentimes, as students leave the campus, they do not have space to transport all their belongings. The Lighten Your Load Program acts as a link between the students and organizations within our community that serve those who put the discarded items to use.



All donated materials are stored in the Kite Hill Recycling Center

Some repairs or cleaning may be needed to make the recyclables usable. Clemson University cannot take any responsibility for the items as they are claimed. Items are released in "as is" condition to community service organizations.

THE COLLECTIONS PROCESS

All clothing, food, and household items donated to the Lighten Your Load Program are collected in the residence halls. Every residence hall on campus has a collections site in a designated area of the building. Once items have been deposited into the collection bins, they are not to be removed. The collection sites are emptied on an as needed basis by the Clemson University Recycling Department. The collected items are then taken to the Kite Hill Recycling Center on the Clemson University campus where they are separated into categories and weighed for evaluation and record keeping purposes.

Lofts, which are wooden structures that raise beds off the floor to create space underneath, are abundant on the Clemson University campus. As a result, loft materials are a logical addition to the list of items collected during the program. Flatbed trucks are parked in convenient locations around campus for the collection of all surplus wood from residence halls. Students are not permitted to throw away lumber into most on campus dumpsters, and thus the flatbed trucks provide a more convenient way for students to dispose of unwanted loft materials. All loft materials are donated to Habitat for Humanity for use on projects in the Clemson area.



Housing residents give large amounts of loft materials

EVERYONE BENEFITS

The Lighten Your Load Program has many far-reaching effects for Clemson students beyond that of merely acting as a way to cut down on possessions.



Clemson students take the opportunity to help others

This program helps to make students aware of how their unwanted belongings can help those in the community who are less fortunate. As a result, the Lighten Your Load Program gives the students of Clemson a sense of giving back to the community through this service learning opportunity.

The effects of the Lighten Your Load Program are also felt throughout the community. The items collected during the program are donated to local charities such as the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and Clemson Community Care. These organizations operate within the greater Clemson area and serve to help those in substantive need.

In addition to the benefits enjoyed by the Clemson students and the Clemson community, the Lighten Your Load Program also benefits the environment by keeping all donated goods out of local landfills. As a result, less of the waste generated at Clemson University is taking up space in local landfills.