

The Guy Who Knows...



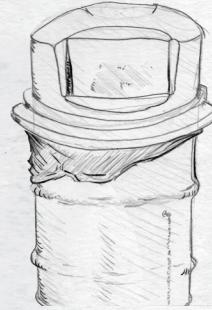
Octavio DaEira
Assistant Director of Buildings & Grounds

Octavio DaEira takes us on a tour of the waste management procedures and infrastructure on Purchase College campus.

He works in the Facilities Management complex north of the campus loop .



"we have several containers; we have paper containers, we have plastic containers, and we have garbage containers. And from there the garbage gets picked up"



"There are several of these buggies around campus. You'll see these more than you see the big trucks. Because the big trucks can only go so far on campus and we don't want them up on the mall cause of their weight. So we rely on these little guys more than anything. It's a smaller footprint. It's greener. They are out and about. Fully electric. And this one here is diesel powered. Come winter time, they're also the ones that plow the snow. So we rely on these little guys a lot."



"On the little ones - we have three of them - that go out, and they are supposed to pick up garbage from different areas. There is nothing to separate them within. One will go out to pick up paper, the other will go out to pickup plastic. The other one will go out to pick up garbage."

"On the larger trucks, within the trucks, there are different bins. There's a little one for plastics, there's a green one for paper, and then there's a black one for garbage."

There are 65 custodians
at 14 grounds guys keeping
the campus looking good.



Every bin & receptacle
on campus gets hosed
clean when it gets
picked up.

These trucks are
impeccably clean.

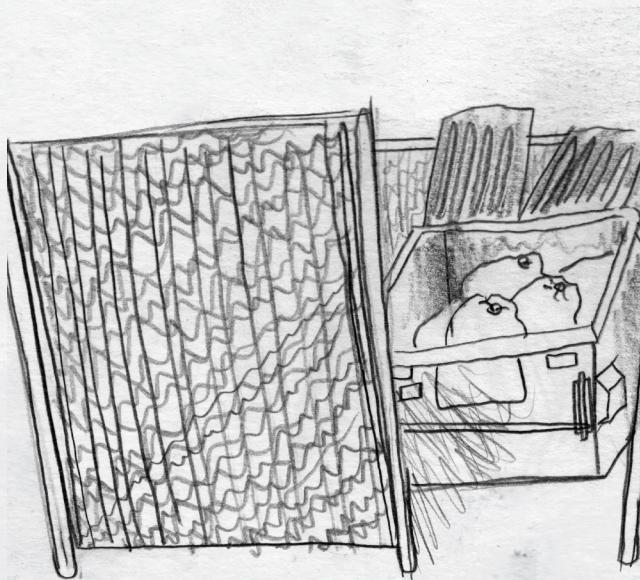
"We'll bring it all down here (Purchase Facilities), and we have several dumpsters located in the back—there's a giant one over there just for metal. A little further away from that, we have one that's cardboard, then plastic, then garbage."

Sometimes local residents dump their more difficult trash—like old television—in Purchases' dumpsters.

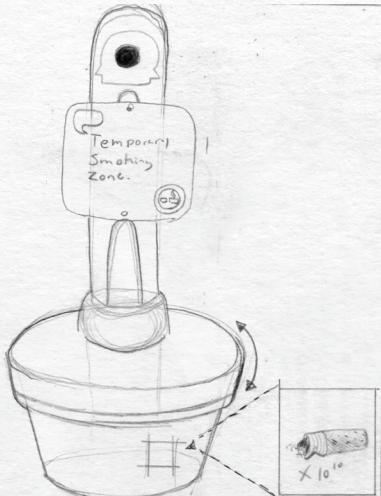


"All County Waste Management, they'll come in. They empty all the dumpsters from back here."

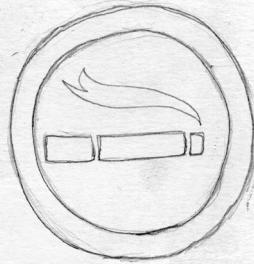
"There's no dumping spot on the mall. But there's Chartwells, they have their dumpsters. They have one there by the dorms. They have one in Campus Center north."



"They use the same waste removal company. It's the same company, but that's their dorms – we don't go putting anything in their dorms, that's their garbage. I mean, yeah, the same company is still dumping them, but that's their dumpsters; we don't go putting anything in there."

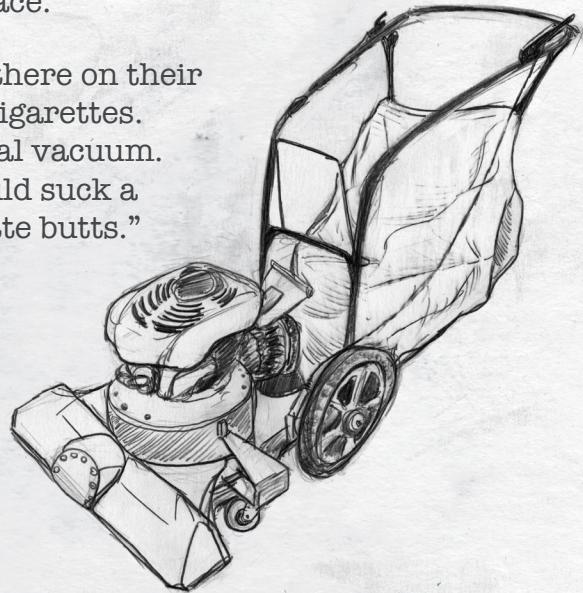


"You know, I wish everyone would use those things. But they don't. Cigarettes get flicked around all over the place. But yes, that's garbage. It's not a biodegradable item. Technically, it's supposed to be a smoke-free campus. But you wouldn't know it."



"So we try to put those things strategically in certain places and then there's not enough of those things to go around. Sometimes they catch fire, people take them, you know. What I did with the guys 'cause literally there were some areas, certain areas especially like, what caught my attention in alumni village, where we had one area where it seemed to be where the kids congregated in. And there were just cigarette butts all over the place."

"And literally my guys will sit there on their hands and knees and pick up cigarettes. We had to buy the guys a special vacuum. Self-powered vacuum that would suck a brick. So it's picking up cigarette butts."



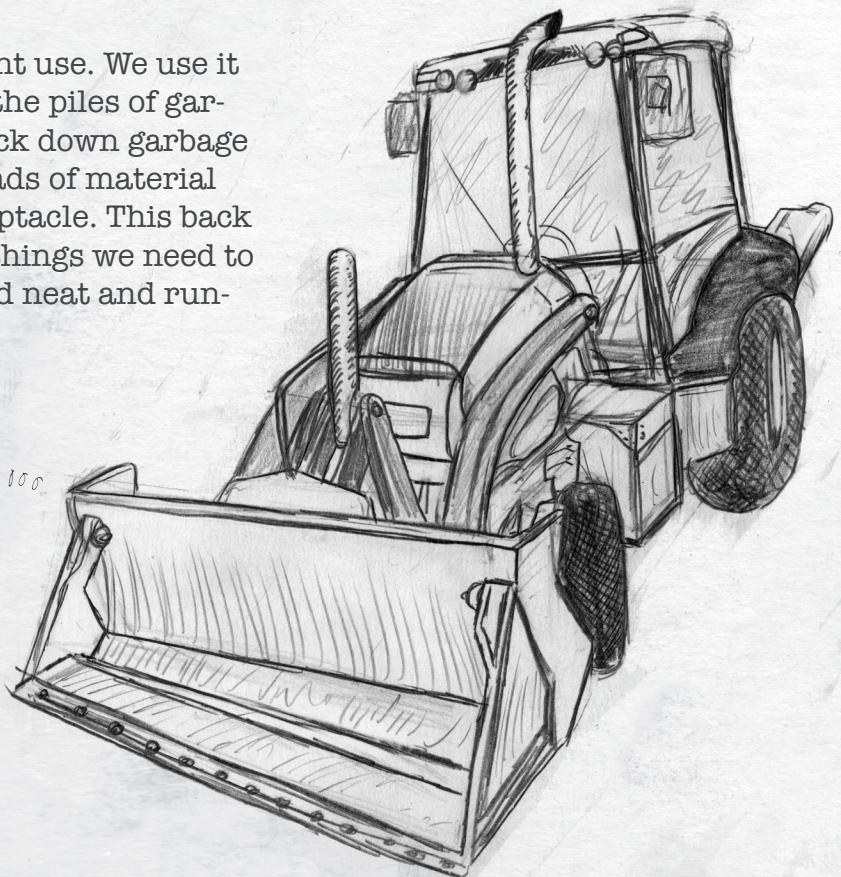


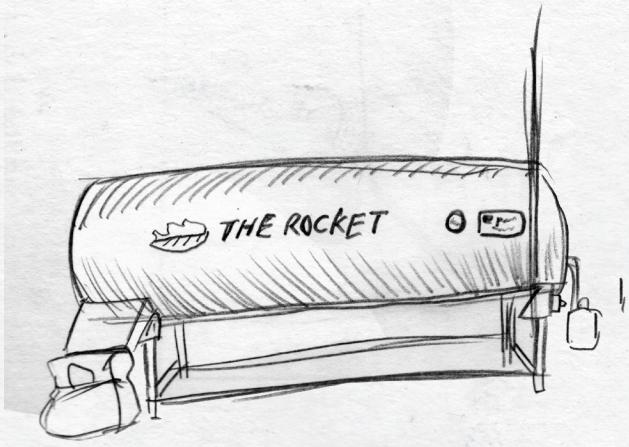
This is Octavio's favorite machine.
It has air conditioning, heat &
stereo. Swoosh.

This little guy is really cool. It
cleans all the trash on the streets:
washes them with soap and water,
scrubs them down and vacuums
up the mess."

"This thing is in constant use. We use it all the time to manage the piles of garbage we have. It can pack down garbage in a dumpster, move loads of material from receptacle to receptacle. This back hoe helps us do all the things we need to do to keep stuff nice and neat and running smoothly."

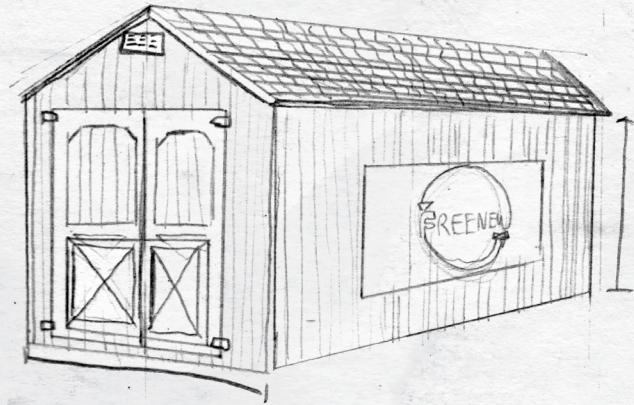
This machine costs \$80,000





"This is a student sponsored initiative to create compost out of kitchen scraps. The machine heats up the material to accelerate the composting process from months down to 14 days"

"This is also used by the students to get rid of unwanted things - items get recycled by someone who stops by, who might actually make use of it"



"Yeah, that's part of the magic. No one would have any idea where the trash goes. It somehow mysteriously disappears. It leaves.

It's hard to keep up with, but you know, certain times of the year when kids are coming back, culture-shock weekend, it's hard to keep up with. You know the guys are also jumping on these little vehicles, and they go to the mall, a lot of wind-driven garbage floating around up on the lawns, athletic fields. Just on the road, I see every single one of them - if they see something blowing they'll stop their vehicle, they'll pick it up.

You know, we all do that.

Theres a lot of thought and a lot of manpower and dollars spent in removing garbage.
But, it is what it is.

We created it,we gotta get rid of it."



Odanis Colón
Adrian Alfonso

Acknowledgements:

Octavio DaEira, Assistant Director of Buildings, Grounds, & Maintenance
George Halliday, Grounds Supervisor
Steven P. Dorso, Interim Director of Facilities Management

Purchase College—State University of New York