

If you take a stroll through campus, you're sure to notice some new sustainability efforts geared towards building a more eco-friendly atmosphere here at Chapman. These improvements, like the BigBelly Solar Trash and Recycling Compactors, can be attributed to the hard work of students who have been interning for the Sustainability Department at Facilities Management. In the fall of 2012, Jennifer Feinstein '14, performed a waste audit on Chapman's campus and discovered a way trash can be more efficiently disposed of. Based on her research, Jen presented a proposal to Chapman to purchase the BigBelly Solar Trash and Recycling Compactors. Her proposal was well-received and there are now about ten compactors scattered throughout campus.

These nifty bins use a solar-powered management console and a command center to decrease the frequency of waste pick-up. Each bin compacts its contents until sensors indicate that the container is full. Then a notification is sent to the command center and also to a mobile device such as an iPad, if desired. Not only do these bins bring pizzazz to campus and allow students to showcase their artwork or clubs to advertise their events on them, they increase efficiency while decreasing costs. Because the compaction reduces air pockets in the waste, the staff members and waste company do not have to make pick-up trips as often. This reduces collection costs associated with bag usage and fuel and pick-up costs of the waste company vehicles. Also, they have a low carbon impact because they are solar powered, the waste company saves fuel when they make less pick-up trips and less plastic is added to the landfill because there are less bags used. The BigBelly bins have been a great addition to Chapman's campus and hopefully, with the help of students, these bins will continue to maintain Chapman sustainability in a BIG way.