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Examining Solid Waste Practices and Littering at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

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It's hard to imagine walking through a college campus (or any other active environment) and not seeing litter on the ground. This study, set at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus, outlines the patterns of litter distribution in the campus area. In so doing, it takes the wider issue of waste management in a country where the average person produces **1.4 kg of waste daily**.

Solid waste surveys were conducted over a 1 week period, and information was recorded on the type of waste as well as its location. Data collected in that period showed over 10,000 pieces of litter were located around the campus. The major material of the waste was plastic, accounting for 47.6% of all instances of litter recorded. Most of this waste was clustered at the student activity center on the campus, a pattern resembling other findings on litter **distribution on university campuses**.

While this study doesn't expound on factors influencing littering behaviours, it calls on prior work which indicates that appropriate aesthetics and graphic placements can inform **better waste disposal practices**.

To address this waste issue, the paper recommends introduction of video games, and improvement of signage around bins. Additionally, the study suggests the introduction of recycling bins in most affected areas, which can encourage plastic waste disposal.



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