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College students' Municipal Solid Waste source separation behavior and its influential factors: a case study in Beijing, China

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#### Abstract

China has the highest higher education enrollment across the world since 2005. 12 Beijing has China's greatest concentration of higher education universities and 13 institutes, and therefore has the greatest potential and necessity for conducting waste 14 15 source separation on university campuses. This study conducted a face-to-face intercept survey on 10 university campuses in Beijing, to gather first-hand 16 information on students' waste source separation behavior and its influential factors. 17 The survey received a total of 509 valid respondents. Results showed that 47% of 18 the college students mixed all the MSWs at source, which is very similar to their 19 surrounding friends (43%) but much higher than their parents (27%). Nearly 90% of 20 the respondents can make a correct separation of food waste, but the accuracy rate 21 for waste drugs (76%), waste textiles (73%), waste batteries (69%), and waste 22 23 electrics (54%) is much lower. Special attention needs to be given to distinguishing 24 recyclables and hazardous wastes. For the testing of five influential factor hypotheses, HP1, HP3, and HP4 can be accepted, and HP2 and HP5 can be partly 25

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