

Waste Reduction

Reducing Campus Waste



Since UCSC's first pilot recycling program in 1989, the campus has developed a variety of reuse, recycling, and composting systems to save energy, natural resources, and landfill space. UCSC's Grounds Services self-hauls 90–95% of the campus's landfill waste, construction waste, recycling, green waste, and compost. In Fall 2011, the Landfill and Solid Waste Diversion Task Force conducted UCSC's first-ever campuswide waste assessment and is developing initiatives to reach the UC goal of Zero Waste (100 percent diversion) by 2020.

Analysis of campus trash dumpsters found that three potentially divertable materials—food scraps, compostable paper towels, and mixed recyclable paper—constituted nearly half the volume of overall discards, with paper towels accounting for 33%. Based on these findings, the campus pursued initiatives to remove paper towels from residence halls; standardized outdoor recycling containers and labeling; and either closed residence hall trash chutes or converted them to recycling chutes.

The campus has installed scales and load-tracking software on refuse trucks, and built a conveyor system to maximize recycling value. A change in recharge-rate

calculations to include capital equipment enabled the campus to purchase its first CNG refuse truck.

Active student involvement has been key to campus waste reduction initiatives such as a pilot reusable dishware system for events, a Zero Waste Event Planning Guide, and polystyrene (aka "Styrofoam") collection from science labs.

UCSC will build on these accomplishments over the next three years, expanding campuswide outreach to promote changes in behavior that reduce waste. The campus will also pursue additional operational improvements and innovative ways to fund waste management infrastructure.

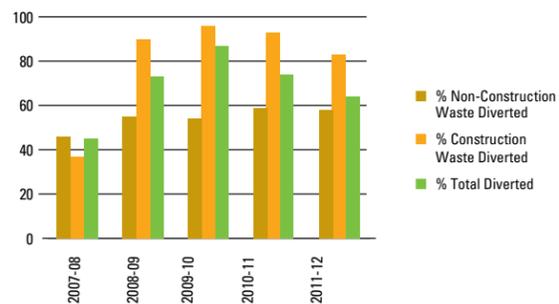
Scope and Purpose

Create, develop, and implement programs and strategies to reduce waste on the UCSC campus.

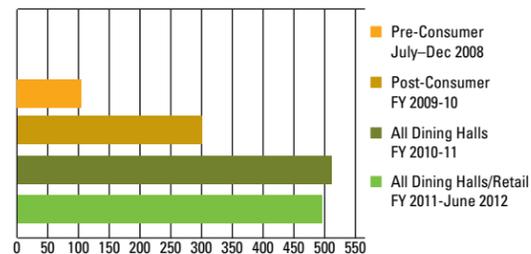
GOALS	OBJECTIVES
1. Develop and implement campus-wide education, outreach and behavioral change initiatives to improve waste reduction practices among UCSC community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop waste reduction training for campus staff utilizing the campus' online Learning Management System. Create a centralized and comprehensive website link that clearly communicates recycling, composting, and waste disposal resources and locations across campus. Develop formalized procedures for supporting, promoting, and tracking zero waste events¹ modeled on existing Catering Services practices.
2. Identify and pursue opportunities for operational infrastructure improvements that will increase waste diversion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create tracking systems for all material streams and establish a centralized location for waste reduction data. Increase efficiency of current recycling, compost, and other resource recovery initiatives through the creation of a material processing facility on campus. Explore opportunities to expand the current Dining Services compost collection infrastructure to serve a greater portion of the campus, including reporting on the viability of creating an on-campus or local composting facility. Explore the viability of creating a location on campus where items can be traded and re-used among students, faculty, and staff across campus. Evaluate the current fee structure and identify sustainable sources of funding to increase staff capacity for waste reduction education and material management.

Key Metrics

2007–12 by Fiscal Year Campus Waste Diversion



2008–12 Dining Hall Compost Diverted from Landfill Trucked to Compost Facility



¹ A Zero Waste event at UCSC is defined as a one-time program that is planned in a way to reduce waste as much as possible by making conservative procurement decisions, communicating with collaborating parties and vendors about allowable materials, and including composting and recycling collection the day of the event to minimize trash production.

