

2017-18 WASTE RECOVERY TREND REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The 2017-2018 Waste Recovery Trend Report provides an overview of solid waste management, recycling, compost, and overall waste disposal from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (FY2018). This data is tracked throughout the fiscal year on a consistent monthly basis by the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling (OWRR). This Executive Summary provides a high-level overview of the detailed information and data found in the full 58-page [Annual Trend report](#), which may be accessed on OWRR's Program Results webpage.

MISSION

Within the campus community, it is the mission of the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling to promote comprehensive waste reduction practices and provide effective solid waste services including recycling, composting, and trash disposal.

VISION

Waste will be seen as both a resource and a liability. The campus community will have the knowledge and resources in place to avoid waste and manage the resulting waste in a manner that allows for the least environmental impact. Proper waste management and waste avoidance will be considered in decisions made by all members of the campus community on a daily basis.

RECOVERY RATE

OWRR has given much thought and consideration to the best way to quantify solid waste recovery on campus. In keeping with benchmarks and standardization methods used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and universities throughout the country, OWRR refers to waste diverted from the landfill to be made into new products as recovered waste. Waste that is recycled or composted makes up the recovery rate of waste, while municipal solid waste makes up the landfilled percentage. Note that the total waste tonnage includes non-hazardous waste streams across campus. Coal ash generated by the Cogeneration facility and waste from capital and other contracted construction projects are not included.

This year's 40% recovery rate is less than last year's 45% recovery rate. However, the drop in the FY17-18 recovery rate is due in part to a change in the way yard waste is calculated. It is one of the few materials for which we use a volume-to-weight conversion. Prior to FY17-18, yard waste tons were based on the estimated number and size of truckloads of leaves, limbs, and branches received to be processed. From FY17-18 forward, the number of cubic yards of mulch made by Grounds will be used. The new calculations are more reliable and provide more accurate data.

Most importantly, it is noteworthy that the total waste collected on campus decreased by 10% compared to last year's total tonnage, which is a significant reduction in overall waste!

WASTE REDUCTION RESULTS



40% Recovery Rate



3,786 tons of Waste Recovered



3,663 metric tons CO₂e Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions



10% Decrease in Total Waste* Produced on Campus from FY16-17



Total Waste* per Capita Dropped from 532.0 lbs./Person to 474.1 lbs./Person from FY16-17

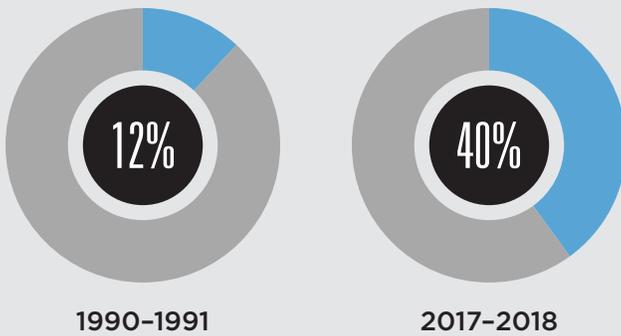
*TOTAL WASTE = Landfill + Recovery

2017 - 2018

CAMPUS RECYCLING

RECOVERY RATE THEN & NOW

■ RECOVERED VS LANDFILLED ■



531
TONS OF
CARDBOARD



144
TONS OF
CONTAINERS



16
TONS OF
LIGHTBULBS



859
TONS OF
PAPER



18
TONS OF
INK CARTRIDGES



12
TONS OF
BATTERIES



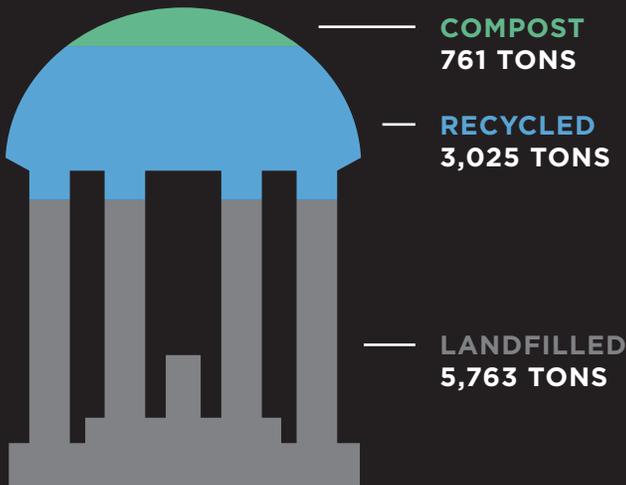
765
TONS OF
YARD WASTE



761
TONS OF
FOOD WASTE

CAMPUS WASTE
9,549 TONS

TOTAL WASTE BREAKDOWN



PROGRAM IMPACTS

THE 3,786 TONS OF MATERIAL RECOVERED IS ENOUGH TO SAVE:



17,142
TREES

Nearly twice as many trees as there are on campus **OR**



7,011,158
GALLONS OF WATER

Enough to fill Bowman Gray Pool nearly eight times **OR**



412,145
GALLONS OF GASOLINE

Enough to drive to New York City and back 10,304 times **OR**



4,111,043
KW HOURS OF ENERGY

Enough to power the Undergraduate Library for 3.15 years!

3,025

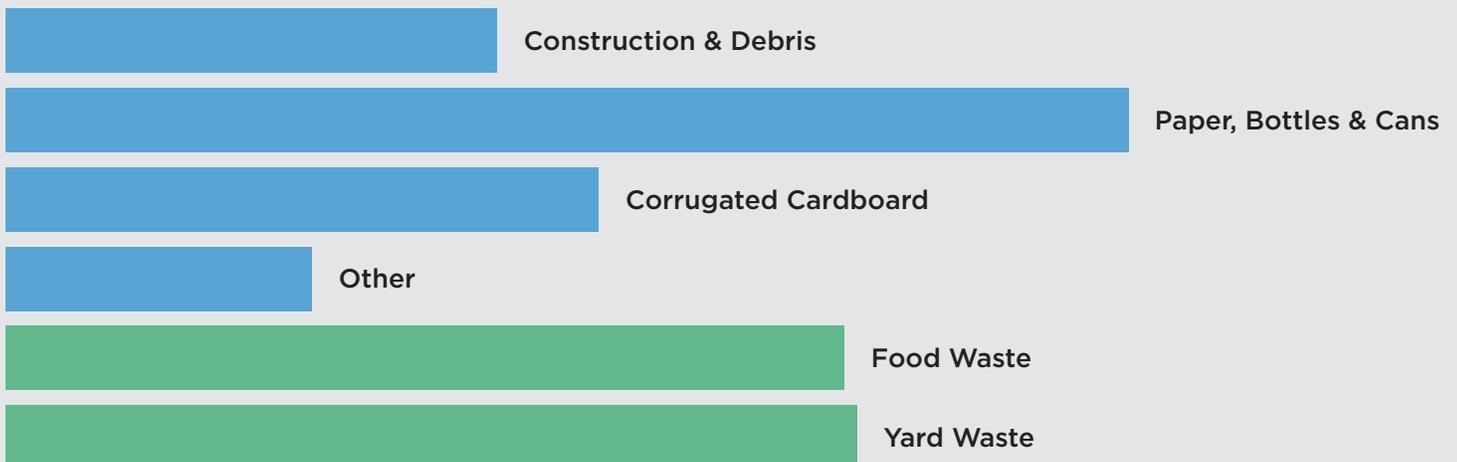
CUBIC YARDS OF LANDFILL SPACE SAVED

This is the equivalent to nearly 375 dumpsters!



*25 Dumpsters = 

WHAT MAKES UP OUR RECOVERED MATERIALS?



2017-18 RESIDENTIAL STUDENT PROGRAMS



DON'T DITCH IT, DONATE IT!

In a partnership between OWRR, Carolina Housing, and TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers), the Don't Ditch It, Donate It! program in the residence halls during student move-out has saved over 100 cubic yards of landfill space since its inception in 2009.

STUDENT MOVE-IN

Utilizing 33 Recycling Ambassadors from Carolina Dining Services, Carolina Housing, Environment, Health & Safety, Grounds, Housekeeping, Housing Support, Life Safety, Transportation & Parking, University Mail Services, and the UNC Service Station, OWRR staffs every residence hall dumpster site during move-in weekend. This year, **15 tons of cardboard, 500 pounds of Styrofoam, and 420 pounds of plastic film were recycled** as a result of this team effort!



GREEN GAMES

Green Games, a longstanding student-run competition among residence hall communities, promotes environmental education and behavior change as students earn points by designing and hosting environmental programming in their residence halls, doing service projects, and more!

THANK YOU!

OWRR would like to acknowledge all those across campus who work together to reduce waste and minimize our environmental impact. Waste reduction is a key component of overall campus sustainability and we wouldn't be able to continue improving without the help of students, faculty, and staff who help to create an atmosphere in which this progress is attainable. We would especially like to thank the various companies, departments, and individuals who contribute to this report:

Brooks Contractor
Carolina Dining Services
Central Receiving
Cogeneration Facility
Environment Health and Safety

Grounds Services
Orange County Solid Waste Management
Shimar Recycling Services
Sonoco Recycling
Shred-It

Surplus
University Mail Services
UNC Service Station
Waste Industries



FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
Facilities Services

Send us an email or visit go.unc.edu/recycling for more recycling info and tips!

Phone: 919-962-1442

Email: recycling@facilities.unc.edu

Campus Box: 1805

