

Executive Summary

OWRR Annual Trend Report 2005-2006

The Office of Waste Reduction & Recycling continued to expand its services in the 2005-2006 fiscal year. The **overall recycling rate** was **39%** of the university's total waste (not including coal ash and waste from construction contractors). Additionally, there was a **42% increase in per capita waste reduction from our base year (1991-1992)**.

There was a **reduction in overall waste** in 2005-2006 (both trash and recycled) from last fiscal year. Although the **campus population increased** from 37,813 to 38,312 (source: UNC Office of Institutional Research and Assessment <http://www.ais.unc.edu/ir/index.html>), the total waste decreased from 9,447 tons to 9,372 tons. The **total waste per capita decreased from 500 pounds to 489 pounds per capita**, which is a 2% decrease.

The amount of **corrugated cardboard/mixed load penalties** at from the Orange County Landfill decreased from \$3,830.31 to \$917.54, a **savings of \$2,912.77** and a **decrease of 76%** over the previous year.

There was a decrease in the overall waste reduction rate from last year, from 41% to 39%. There may be several explanations for this. First, there was nearly a 150-ton increase in the amount of trash produced by the University over last year, from 5,559.48 tons to 5,700.77 tons. This increase may be explained at least in part by the clean-out of the Municipal Yard in February, 2006. In that month alone, the University trash hauls went up from an average 27-ton monthly total to over 278 tons.

Additionally, the recycling numbers for yard waste decreased by 25% over the 2004-2005 fiscal year, due in part to a lack of large storm impact to our area. Also, the tonnage for bottles/cans recycling saw a 30% decrease, due mostly to the completion of the switchover to plastic bottles from aluminum cans in the vending machines on campus.

This year, the cost per ton for trash came out to be \$392, and the cost per ton for recycling came out to be \$209*. These figures include contract costs, labor, a portion of housekeeping costs, and repairs & maintenance.

**\$209 does not include the revenue.*