

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

FY18-19 Annual Waste Recovery Report Summary and Highlights

From July 2018 through June 2019, UNC-Chapel Hill diverted 4,315 tons of materials from landfills. Our recycling and composting efforts resulted in an overall recovery rate of 42%. For the full report or the formal summary and infographic, visit the [program results](#) section of the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling's (OWRR's) webpage.

June	Year To Date (in tons)		
	2018-19	2017-18	% increase or decrease
Landfill	5,957	5,685	5%
Recycling	3,669	3,026	21%
Compost	646	761	-15%
Total Waste	10,271	9,472	8%
% Recovered	42.0%	40.0%	5.1%

In terms of energy savings, this is the equivalent to conserving the **annual energy consumption of 467 households** and **nearly 7,400 barrels of oil**. Using EPA WARM model, the total **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions** due to campus recycling was **5,942 (MTCO₂E)**.

Carolina's **paper** recycling (1,124 tons) saved:

- 19,000 trees
- ~8 million gallons of water
- 3,400 cubic yards of landfill space

The chart (right) summarizes the change in tons reported from FY17-18 to FY18-19. Some highlights and notes regarding trends are below:

Categories	17-18	18-19	change in tons	% change
Tons				
Containers and Fiber	1,543.1	1,578.5	35.4	2%
Corrugated Cardboard	531.1	509.7	(21.5)	-4%
Mixed Recycling (Paper & Containers)	488.9	404.2	(84.7)	-21%
Confidential Paper	258.5	356.3	97.8	27%
Mixed Paper	209.9	248.1	38.1	15%
Containers	45.9	50.8	5.0	10%
Hardback Books	8.8	9.4	0.6	7%
Organic	1,525.7	2,081.2	555.4	27%
Mulch Produced	765.0	1,435.0	670.0	47%
Food Waste	760.7	646.2	(114.6)	-18%
Miscellaneous	274.0	305.1	31.1	10%
E-Waste	139.2	152.3	13.1	9%
Cooking Oil	22.0	21.5	(0.5)	-2%
Batteries (includes Auto)	14.8	8.8	(6.0)	-67%
Tires	7.7	4.7	(3.0)	-63%
Printer Cartridges	18.4	4.0	(14.5)	-366%
Film & Styrofoam (combined)	2.4	1.9	(0.4)	-22%
Construction & Demolition	443.9	350.1	(93.8)	-27%
Metal	291.2	247.3	(43.9)	-18%
Pallets & Clean Wood	129.3	74.8	(54.4)	-73%
Concrete & Brick	3.8	17.0	13.2	78%
Carpet	-	2.6	2.6	100%
Total Recovered	3,786.7	4,314.9	528.1	12%
Total Landfilled	5,762.6	5,956.6	194.0	3%
Pounds/Person				
Per capita recovered	188.0	213.0	25.0	12%
Per capita landfilled	286.1	294.1	7.9	3%
Total per capital waste generated	474.1	507.1	32.9	6%

The **Containers & Fiber** category covers all the bottles, cans, jars, and paper collected from campus. OWRR recently stopped servicing leased spaces, so this may have contributed to the decrease in mixed recycling. Confidential paper was up, in part, due to additional reporting by Shred-It.

The **Organic** category combines organic materials that were either composted or mulched. Yard waste turned into mulch by the Grounds Department nearly doubled over last year. We assume that this increase is due, in part, to the number of storms experienced during the 2018 hurricane season. Food waste composted decreased by 18% or 114 tons. Much of this was due to a reduction in food waste from Lenoir and Chase dining halls. The amount of food waste collected from residence halls increased from 2,400 pounds (1.2 tons) to 4,200 (2.1 tons)—a 42% increase.

The **Miscellaneous** category includes a variety of other recyclables. The main change here was in a sharp reduction in printer cartridges. The shift to shared printers in offices and printing credits for students may be responsible for much of this decrease. A change in the way printer cartridges are collected and reported may also contribute to the drastic drop.

The **Construction and Demolition (C&D)** category represents waste created by campus operations, construction, and renovation projects. It does not include contractor-generated waste. The drop in clean wood/pallets is due an increase in engineered and painted wood pallets, which are not accepted for recycling by Orange County.

For the detailed report, summary, infographic, and program highlights, visit OWRR's [program results](#) page. Feel free to call with questions, 919-962-1442, or email us at recycling@fac.unc.edu

