

2018-2019 WASTE RECOVERY TREND REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The 2018–2019 Waste Recovery Trend Report provides an overview of solid waste management, recycling, compost, and overall waste disposal from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. 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 42% recovery rate is 5.1% higher than last year's 40% recovery rate. This increase can be attributed in part to an increase in Organics recovery of 27% from FY17–18 to FY18–19. 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. Also, 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.


Confidential paper also increased by 27% from FY17–18 to FY18–19, due in part to additional reporting by Shred-It.


WASTE REDUCTION RESULTS

 **42% Recovery Rate**

 **4,315 tons** of
Waste Recovered

 **5,942 metric tons
CO₂e Reduction**
in Greenhouse
Gas Emissions

 **Residence Hall
Composting**
42% increase
from 2017–2018
(1.2 tons) to 2018–
2019 (2.1 tons)

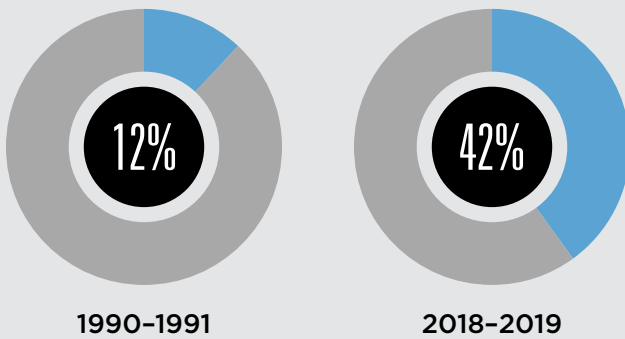
 **Recovery Rate
Increased** by 5.1%
over FY 17–18

2018 - 2019

CAMPUS RECYCLING

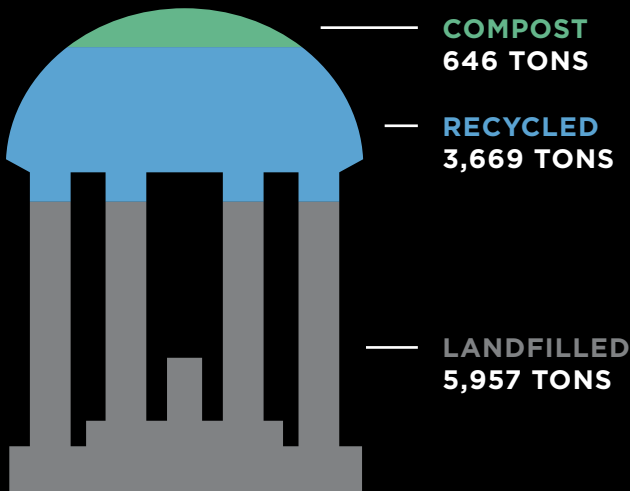
RECOVERY RATE THEN & NOW

■ RECOVERED VS LANDFILLED ■



CAMPUS WASTE
10,272 TONS

TOTAL WASTE BREAKDOWN



510
TONS OF
CARDBOARD



121
TONS OF
CONTAINERS



13
TONS OF
LIGHTBULBS



937
TONS OF
PAPER



4
TONS OF
INK CARTRIDGES



7
TONS OF
BATTERIES



1435
TONS OF
YARD WASTE



646
TONS OF
FOOD WASTE

PROGRAM IMPACTS

THE 4,315 TONS OF MATERIAL RECOVERED IS EQUIVALENT TO:



REMOVING THE ANNUAL EMISSIONS FROM 728,539 GALLONS OF GAS

Enough to drive to New York City and back 18,208 times



SAVING 510 HOUSEHOLDS' ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Enough to charge a smartphone 1,007,460 times

OR

3,370

CUBIC YARDS OF LANDFILL SPACE SAVED

This is the equivalent to nearly 425 dumpsters!



*25 Dumpsters = 

THE 1,124 TONS OF FIBER (PAPER + CARDBOARD) RECOVERED IS ENOUGH TO SAVE:



19,099 TREES

More than twice as many trees as there are on campus

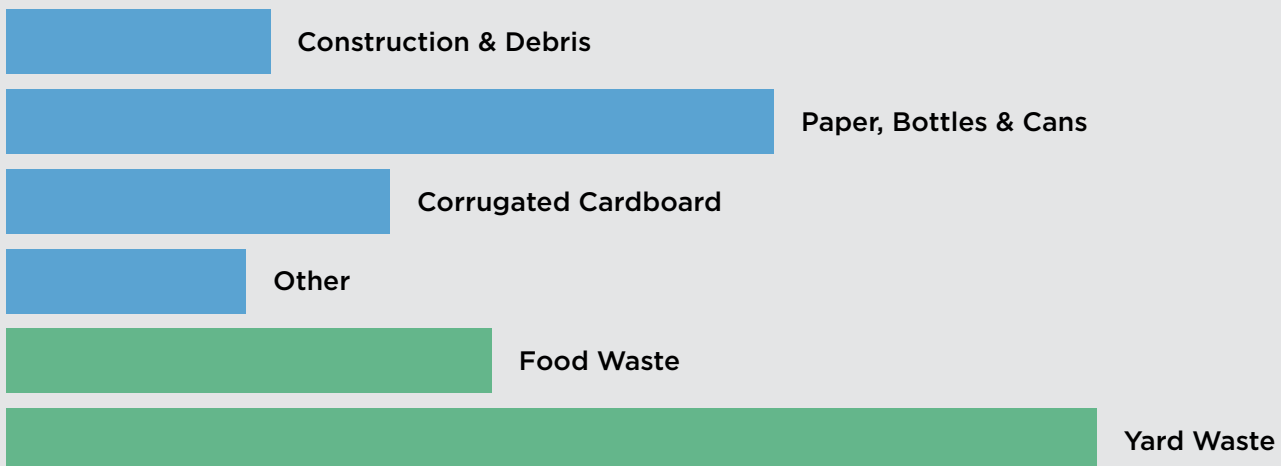


7,811,611 GALLONS OF WATER

Enough to fill Bowman Gray Pool more than eight times

OR

WHAT MAKES UP OUR RECOVERED MATERIALS?



2018-2019 ORGANICS AT CAROLINA



COMPOSTING AT CAROLINA DINING SERVICES

UNC Chapel Hill has composted nearly 20,000,000 pounds of food waste and organic material since 1999. For 20 years, UNC's dining halls have been leading contributors. For FY18-19, 596 tons of the total amount of food waste composted (646 tons), came from Carolina Dining Services! The majority is from back-of-house operations and plate waste in both dining halls, though front-of-house composting is an important component. CDS has also started #EatSortWinUNC, a social media-based educational campaign designed to help diners compost and recycle correctly.

UNC GROUNDS DEPARTMENT AND YARD WASTE

The Grounds Department recycles nearly 100% of all yard waste from campus. This includes 2,850 cubic yards of mulch produced from campus trees and shrubs and 3,750 cubic yards from leaves. Increased storms in the 2018 hurricane season yielded a 47% increase in the total tons of yard waste processed this year. Excitingly, Grounds has a new program that will turn logs 40" in diameter and larger into lumber to be used across campus.



RESIDENCE HALL COMPOSTING

Launched in 2014 in four residence hall communities, the residence hall composting program is now available in all undergraduate residence hall communities on campus. Students may opt in by checking out a bucket for composting from their community desk. With participation and enthusiasm having grown for the program, the amount of compost coming from the residence halls has doubled from FY17-18 (1.2 tons) to FY18-19 (2.2 tons).

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



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

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