



FACT SHEET: RECYCLING



SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

Recycling has a long history at Stanford. Students started the university’s program in the late 1970s and it was operated by the Associated Students of Stanford University until 1992. In 1993, Stanford partnered with recycling waste hauler Peninsula Sanitary Service Inc. to develop a comprehensive program. Today, Stanford recycles plastics, metal, glass, paper, cardboard, construction and demolition debris, organic materials, such as yard trimmings and food scraps, and electronic scrap. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Program serves all academic and athletic areas, student housing and dining, faculty and staff housing, Stanford hospitals, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and construction sites. The program has decreased the amount landfilled by 40%. Stanford’s diversion rate (waste diverted from landfill, as a percent of total waste) went from 30 percent in 1994 to 65 percent in 2015, and is aiming for a 75 percent diversion rate by 2020.

TOP INITIATIVES & RESULTS

Recycling and Reuse

In addition to the commonly recycled paper, cans, and bottles, Stanford is tackling larger and more challenging forms of waste, such as:

Food and compostable material — All dining halls, 43 student managed houses, 17 cafes/restaurants, 2 elementary schools, 2 nursery schools, medical school kitchens, the business school campus, 100 voluntary compost program locations, graduate, faculty, and staff housing on campus, and buildings on Bonair Siding composted 1671 tons of waste material in 2014.

Construction debris — In 2014, 4,522 tons of construction and demolition debris were recycled.

Electronic waste — Stanford collects calculators, CDs, cell phones, PDAs, empty printer/toner cartridges, and other e-waste for recycling, and recycles old and non-working computers. The university recycled 146 tons of electronic waste in 2014.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Practices

The university’s purchasing practices are decentralized but Stanford is promoting the use of recycled and energy-efficient products and goods made locally.

- Stanford’s Energy Retrofit Program promotes using ENERGY STAR-

qualified office equipment and appliances with rebates of \$500 for the purchase of a new large copier and \$200 for the purchase of a new refrigerator.

- In 2008, 20.22 percent of general office products purchased through the university’s primary supplier had recycled content.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

In 2014, Stanford’s Waste Reduction and Recycling Program:

- Saved an estimated 73,832 million BTUs of energy — enough to power nearly 657 homes for one year.
- Saved 12,708 barrels of oil or 590,655 gallons of gasoline.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2,934 MTCE or 10,758 MTCO₂E in a one year period.

AWARDS

- American Forest and Paper Association College/University Recycling Award (2009)
- Third place, Gorilla Prize, RecycleMania contest for colleges and universities, for highest gross weight (1.38 million pounds) of diverted recyclables (2015)
- First place, Plastic Film Competition, RecycleMania contest for colleges and universities, for highest gross weight of diverted plastic film (2015)

MORE INFORMATION
STANFORD RECYCLING CENTER
<http://recycling.stanford.edu>

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