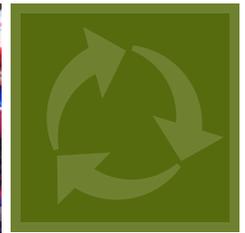




FACT SHEET: RECYCLING



SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

Recycling has a long history at Stanford. Students started the university’s program in the 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 Linear Accelerator Center, and construction sites. The program has decreased the amount of waste landfilled by the university by 36%, bringing Stanford’s diversion rate (waste diverted from landfill, as a percent of total waste) from 30% in 1994 to 62% in 2017. Stanford is aiming for a 75% 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 — Stanford University began food and compostable material collection in January 2003. As of November 2017, all dining halls, 43 student-managed houses, all graduate residents, 17 cafès/restaurants, two elementary schools, two nursery school, medical school and business school break rooms, faculty-staff housing, and over 100 academic locations have food and compostable material collection service. Stanford currently diverts about 190 tons or 380,000 pounds of food waste per month.

Construction debris — In 2017, 2,450 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 118 tons of electronic waste in 2017.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Practices

The university’s purchasing practices are decentralized, but Stanford promotes the use of recycled and energy-efficient products and goods

made locally through its Sustainable Procurement Guidelines. In fiscal year 2017, 42% of Stanford’s office supply purchases contained one or more sustainable features, such as recycled content, FSC certification, or reduced packaging.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Each year, Stanford’s Waste Reduction and Recycling Program:

- Saves an estimated 70,481 million BTUs of energy — enough to power nearly 613 homes for one year.
- Saves 12,131 barrels of oil or 590,655 gallons of gasoline.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 8,973 MTCO₂E.

AWARDS

- Stanford has ranked highly in the national RecycleMania competition for the past 10 years.
- Honorable Mention, Education/Awareness Campaign category for the 2017 RecycleMania Case Study Competition (2017)
- College/University Recycling Award, American Forest and Paper Association (2009)
- Environmental Achievement Award, for the Environmental Health and Safety battery recycling and mercury thermometer replacement program, Environmental Protection Agency (2002)
- Outstanding School Program Award, National Recycling Coalition (2002)

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

CONTACT

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For more resources and to take action, sign in to [My Cardinal Green](#)

