

UCI SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING OVERVIEW – Updated August 2017

- UCI averages 10,000 tons of waste per year and has over 31,000 students.
- UCI has a Diversion Rate of 80% (80% of all solid waste is diverted from landfill by recycling, composting and reuse programs).
- UCI self-hauls using Commercial Class Vehicles.
- 100% of all Green Waste is composted (2,700 tons annually).
- The Food Waste program kept 719 tons out of landfill this year. This material is anaerobically digested and used as fuel for an Orange County water treatment plant.
- In April 2010 UCI implemented its first Food Waste Composting Program, to date composting a total of 3,192 tons.
- Brandywine Commons, and Pippin Commons, Phoenix Grill, Anteater Recreation Center(ARC), and Anteater are now a Zero Waste Facilities, another first for UCI. Each of these dining commons feed about 2,000 people daily.
- Our comprehensive recycling program includes a source separation of: Cooking Oil, Tires, Food Waste, Metal, Wood, Toner Cartridges, Carpet, Pallets, Cement, Cardboard and a Commingled Recycle program for plastics, glass and CRV.
- UCI Recycle Program recently won the 2013 Zero Waste Achievement Award from the California Resource Recovery Association.
- UCI Recycle program also placed 7th in the nationwide 2017 RecycleMania competition preventing over 1,768 metric tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere. This is equivalent to keeping 347 cars off the road annually.
- Of the 10 UC campuses, UCI continues to rank the #1 with the highest diversion rate for the past 6 years.
- In August 2016, the FM Sustainability Team converted approximately 10,000 recycling bins in offices and copy rooms from “mixed paper only” bins to commingled recycling bin.
- UCI recently implemented a pilot program to recycle EPS Styrofoam. Campus laboratory buildings produce around 40-60 cubic yards of Styrofoam material each month. This amount is enough to
- The Facilities Management Sustainability Team won a \$37,000 grant from The Green Initiative Fund to purchase more than 160 connected landfill and recycling bins for general assignment classrooms to help UCI get closer to the goal Zero waste by 2020.
- In the beginning of 2016, the FM Sustainability Team and Housing Department were able to fully deploy food waste composting programs in all housing communities.
- During Earth Week, the FM Sustainability team organized a display called Mt. Recyclemore to visually showcase to students how much waste is produced on an everyday basis on campus and to emphasize the importance and value of sorting waste.
- 14 sets of Big Belly bins have been deployed in high traffic pedestrians all over campus. These bins are a set of landfill and recycling bins that compact material using energy built-in solar panels. In a year that they have been deployed, they have increased the amount of recyclable materials from 20% to 45%.
- UCI Housing communities currently have a diversion rate of 32% which is below the statewide average diversion. The FM Sustainability Department has launched numerous student trainings on recycling and sustainable practices for in addition to the placement of campus standardized signs on all the Housing bins.

Recycling Program Overview

The campus office buildings use a commingled recycling system which includes metal, paper, cardboard, bottles, cans and glass. Paper, pallets and cardboard comprise approximately 75% of the solid waste produced in these types of buildings. On-campus residential facilities use a food composting program as well as a Comingled Recycling Program. The laboratory and classroom building use a Commingled Recycling program. The three Campus Commons and all 14 on-campus restaurants use the Commingled & Food Composting Programs.

By the end of 2011, the Comingled Recycling program had grown to include not only all on-campus Housing, but all Biological Sciences Buildings (5), all Physical Science Buildings (3) and the (4) Health Sciences buildings as well as Mesa Court and Pippin / Brandywine Commons.. We have recently expanded the commingled recycle program to all classrooms and the pedestrian mall. The educational component for this portion of the expansion is ongoing to further increase campus recycling and diversion rate.

Since 2010, UCI's Commingled Recycling Program has diverted a total of 5,512 tons of recycled material from landfill. The sale of this commingled recyclable material has generated a positive revenue stream of \$751,903, in addition; saving the University \$2 million in landfill fees. Expanding the UCI Commingled Recycle program on campus and implementing the food composting program along with the education component of the program, have been responsible for increasing the diversion rate from 58% to 80% over the past six years.

We self haul all of our solid waste and recycling to insure we can make the greenest diversion choice for each commodity.

Waste Reduction & Reuse Programs

UCI is committed to reducing waste even before it needs to be recycled. Prior to the educational programs given by the recycle team at each of our housing area, our student housing areas had only an 11% diversion rate. Since then, the diversion rate has climbed to 32%. More importantly we are teaching students how to reduce and reuse prior to recycling. We have collection bins at the dorms and student apartment style housing for Goodwill available for donations all year long. We have a student move in cardboard collection program in September as well as a move out donation & recycle program in June. The 2016 move out program resulting in 36 tons of, clothing, books, furniture and electronics being donated to the Goodwill of Orange County.

Hydration Station bottle filling stations has been another program to reduce waste. As of 2013 we have 148 locations on campus for students and staff to refill their own bottle to help eliminate the use of disposable bottles on campus. Our bottle filling water meter reader is showing that over 2,785,610 reusable bottles are filled each year. On average, all 148 hydration stations combined save around 77.4 tons of plastic from going into production each year. Disposable water bottle sales have dropped in the past year.

Recycling Education Programs

In 2016-2017 school year, we have been raising awareness by holding campus events as Zero Waste Events. Our first zero waste event in January 2012 was UCI's Homecoming Street Fair and basketball game resulted in a 74% Diversion Rate.

At every zero waste event, we set up numerous "Zero Waste Stations" with a three-bin system and we also have a team of two students (trash talkers) stand by the bins and talk with event attendees about our campus Zero Waste goal. During the talk, the students help the event attendees sort their waste in to appropriate bins. All prior campus events had only a 5% diversion rate. Zero Waste events will soon be the norm at UCI.

We also teach about recycling through our 20 plus presentations and workshops each year. We invite other colleges to visit and learn best-demonstrated practices from our Recycling program and in turn we learn from our visitors. In addition we have 12-14 unpaid Student Interns work with our recycle team each year doing resume worthy projects and earning 4 college units for each 100 hours worked.

Recycling Results

UCI has a robust Recycling and Composting program that has resulted in an 81% Diversion Rate for every year since 2005, we have been able to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill. In 2010 we sent only 25% to landfill (2,501 tons) and 2012 we send our lowest amount to landfill ever (1,865.86 tons). We recycle over 22 commodities using a source separation program for C&D, metal, wood, paper, pallets, cardboard, and CRV.

Despite all of our efforts and recycling programs, there is some amount of material that still finds its way into the waste stream. To combat this, we haul all of our non-recycled waste material to a local Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The MRF is able to sort additional recyclables out of this material before landfill.

Zero Waste is within our grasp and we should meet this goal at UCI before the UCOP goal of 2020.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.fm.uci.edu/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/UCIRecycles>

<http://www.uci.edu/opx/initiatives.php>

<http://www.fm.uci.edu/news/zerowasteevent.html>

<https://www.myucirvine.com/news/student-life/uci-installs-new-campus-hydration-stations-20110805>



For more information or questions regarding UCI Solid Waste & Recycling, please contact Anne Krieghoff, FM Sustainability Manager at akriegho@uci.edu or ucirecycles@uci.edu