

UCI SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

OVERVIEW – Updated October 2014

- UCI averages 10,000 tons of waste per year and has 28,000 students
- UCI has a Diversion Rate of 83% (82% of all solid waste is diverted from landfill by recycling, composting and reuse programs).
- In 2013, UCI's total waste sent to landfill was 1,576-tons – the lowest amount in history of UCI's Solid Waste and Recycling Program.
- UCI self-hauls using Commercial Class Vehicles.
- 100% of all Green Waste is composted (2,216 tons annually).
- The Food Waste program kept 517 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 1,2938 tons.
- Mesa Court Commons, Brandywine Commons, and Pippin Commons are now a Zero Waste Facilities, another first for UCI. Each of these dining commons feed about 2,000 people daily.
- In 2014, two additional buildings achieved zero waste ratings: the Anteatr Recreation Center and the Phoenix Grill.
- Our comprehensive recycling program includes a source separation of: Cooking Oil, Tires, Mixed Paper, 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 6th in the nationwide 2014 RecycleMania competition.

Recycling Program Overview

The campus office buildings use a source separation recycling system. 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.

In the five years since the inception of the Comingled Recycling Program, UCI has diverted 1,852 tons of recycled material from landfill. The sale of this commingled recyclable material has generated a positive revenue stream of \$74,080, in addition; saves the University \$100,008-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 83% over the past five years.

Our Solid Waste and Recycle team consists of 15 full time employees and a fleet of 11 vehicles including electric and bio-diesel fuel vehicles. 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 47%-in 2012. 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, Salvation Army and Planet Aid 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 2014 move out program resulting in 99.1 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 509,000 reusable bottles are filled each year. On average, all 30 hydration stations combined save around 14.1 tons of plastic from going into production each year. Disposable water bottle sales have dropped 17% in the past year.

Recycling Education Programs

In 2012- 2013 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. Since then, we have had many other events such as:

Event	Date	Attendees	Diversion Rate
TEDxUCIrvine	Mar. 3 rd , 2012	200	96%
Celebrate UCI/Wayzgoose	April 21 st , 2012	4000	95%
Reggaefest	June 8 th , 2012	2000	98%
Staff Assembly Picnic	Aug. 31 st , 2012	4500	95%
Dodgeball	Sept. 25 th , 2012	5000	85%
Juvenile Diabetes Walk	Nov 4 th , 2012	6,000	90%
Homecoming	Jan 12 th , 2013	4,000	96.52%
Alpha Phi Omega Conference	March 9 th , 2013	300	93%
Celebrate UCI/Wayzgoose	April 20 st , 2013	4000	95%

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 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 15 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-83% 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