

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

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# **UW RECYCLING ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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BUILDING SERVICES DEPARTMENT



# UW RECYCLING

ANNUAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 2020  
BUILDING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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## UW RECYCLING MISSION STATEMENT

UW Recycling provides innovative recycling, composting and waste reduction solutions with unmatched passion for the health of our campus and our planet.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

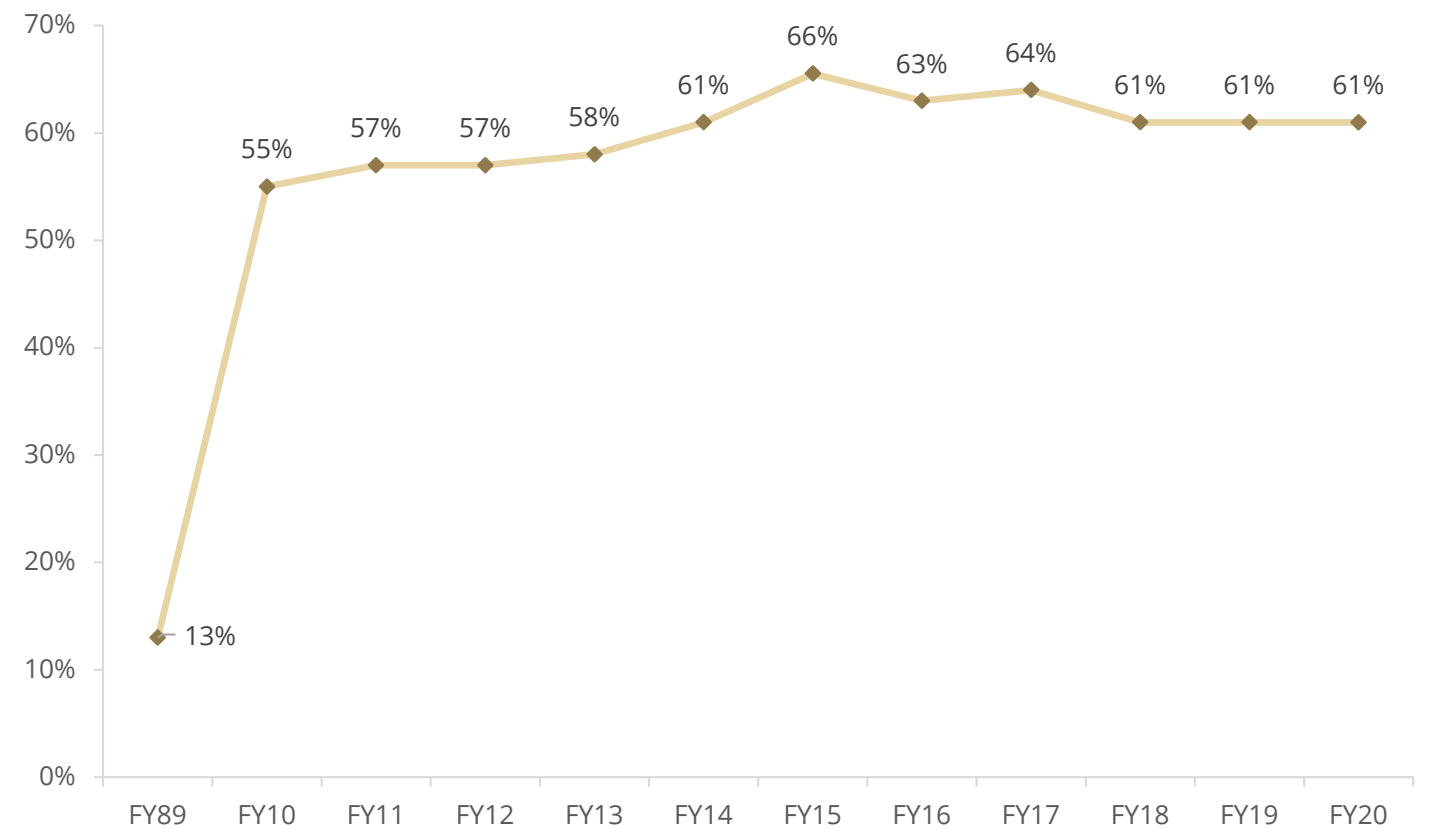
### KEY POINTS

- 61% diversion rate
- Saved more than \$1.1 million by recycling, composting and reusing
- Net reduction of 8,972 tons of greenhouse gas emissions

### INTRODUCTION

The UW Recycling Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report provides an overview of the University of Washington's campus recycling and solid waste program in Seattle from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

**DIVERSION RATE**



## FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each year, UW Recycling monitors its program's success and develops new initiatives to help drive waste diversion efforts. During fiscal year 2020, UW Recycling:

- Increased compost capacity and standardized recycling in 4 high-traffic buildings and 11 smaller buildings on campus.
- Diverted over 8.87 tons of material from the landfill through SCRAM, our student move-out program.
- Taught four separate compost overview lab sessions for the Food Systems: Harvest to Health (NUTR302) course, offering hands-on learning opportunities to over 100 students.
- Connected with over 6,763 staff, faculty, students and visitors through [outreach events](#) on campus:
  - 1,568 at in-person events
  - 4,815 at Husky Football games
  - 380 at virtual events
- Educated second grade students about composting and recycling at the UW Summer Youth Program.
- Hosted social media campaigns promoting International Compost Awareness Week and "Small Steps to Zero Waste", which focused on tips for lowering personal waste.
- Hired two [student positions](#): a Waste Diversion Assistant and a Waste Diversion & Reduction Assistant.



Max-R station after the Suzzallo Library install Januray 13, 2020

## HIGHLIGHT: NEW BINS ON CAMPUS

During fiscal year 2020, UW Recycling focused on diverting food and compostable material from the landfill and recycling by increasing compost capacity and accessibility on campus. While compost is available across campus, the team identified buildings with insufficient compost bins and set out to improve those bins.

### INSTALLING MAX-R PUBLIC AREA STATIONS

The biggest changes were made to buildings with heavy foot traffic including Suzzallo Library, Allen Library, Mary Gates Hall and Kane Hall. For these buildings, UW Recycling invested in Max-R waste stations, which are easy for community members to locate, understand and utilize due to their distinct size and signage accessibility.

These containers hold a high volume of recycling and compost material and a lower amount of garbage material than the UW's standard public area bins. Max-R stations have three waste streams (landfill, recycling, and compost), easy-to-see symbols and colors, special opening shapes for each waste stream and built-in sorting sign displays. The containers are also designed to be safely accessible for custodial staff and easy to clean.

### CONVERTING CURRENT BINS TO NEW STANDARDS

UW Recycling staff also updated lower traffic buildings including:

- Anderson Hall
- Art Building
- Atmospheric Sciences Building
- Bank of America Executive Building
- Bloedel Hall
- The Burke Museum
- Ceramic & Metal Arts Building
- Gerberding Hall
- Hutchinson Hall
- Molecular Engineering and Sciences Building
- Music Building
- Winkenwerder Hall

In these instances, the UW Recycling team re-labeled and converted public area bins to "landfill, recycling and compost" bins. These labels replaced the old "mixed paper/cans & bottles" labels. With updated bins and labels, these areas now meet the UW waste infrastructure standards and provide better access to compost and recycling. The team often refurbishes and reuses older bins to reduce costs and waste.

Improving compost capacity is a key component to the University's Sustainability Action Plan Target IX. This target aims to decrease landfilled waste by 10 percent by 2025. By updating bins on campus, UW Recycling improves accessibility for people to find bins and sort items like compost appropriately.

## DIVERSION RATE: 61%

The diversion rate is one indicator of how successful the University of Washington is in keeping materials out of the landfill. It is used to measure how the institution is doing compared to previous years, other higher education institutions, and the City of Seattle. The diversion rate is calculated by dividing the total tons of material diverted from the landfill by the total tons of waste generated by the UW's campus in Seattle.\*

While the University made great strides to prevent material from going to the landfill by recycling, reselling and composting, the UW did not meet its goal of 70% waste diversion by 2020. UW Recycling monitors the waste diversion numbers each quarter and tries to identify trends or causes for any fluctuations.

Diverted and landfilled waste dropped significantly from March through June due to limited operations on campus.

### RATE CALCULATION

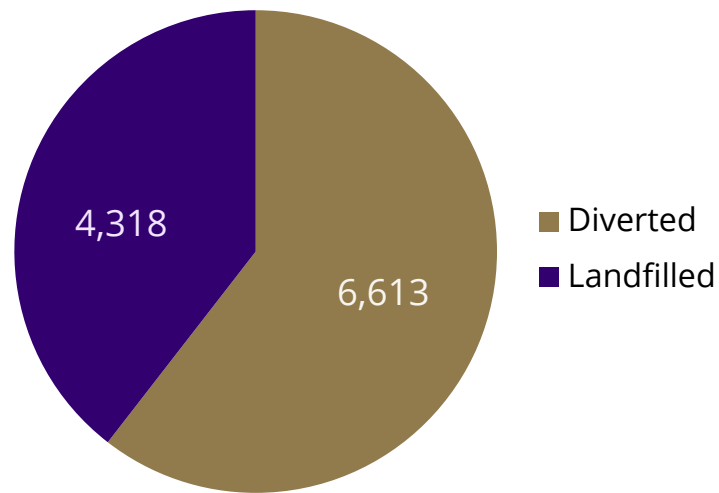
The diversion rate for fiscal year 2020 was 61%. This is consistent with 61% in fiscal years 2018 and 2019. This year the total amount of material recycled decreased by 970 tons and the total amount of material landfilled decreased by 494 tons.

### ENSURING ACCURACY

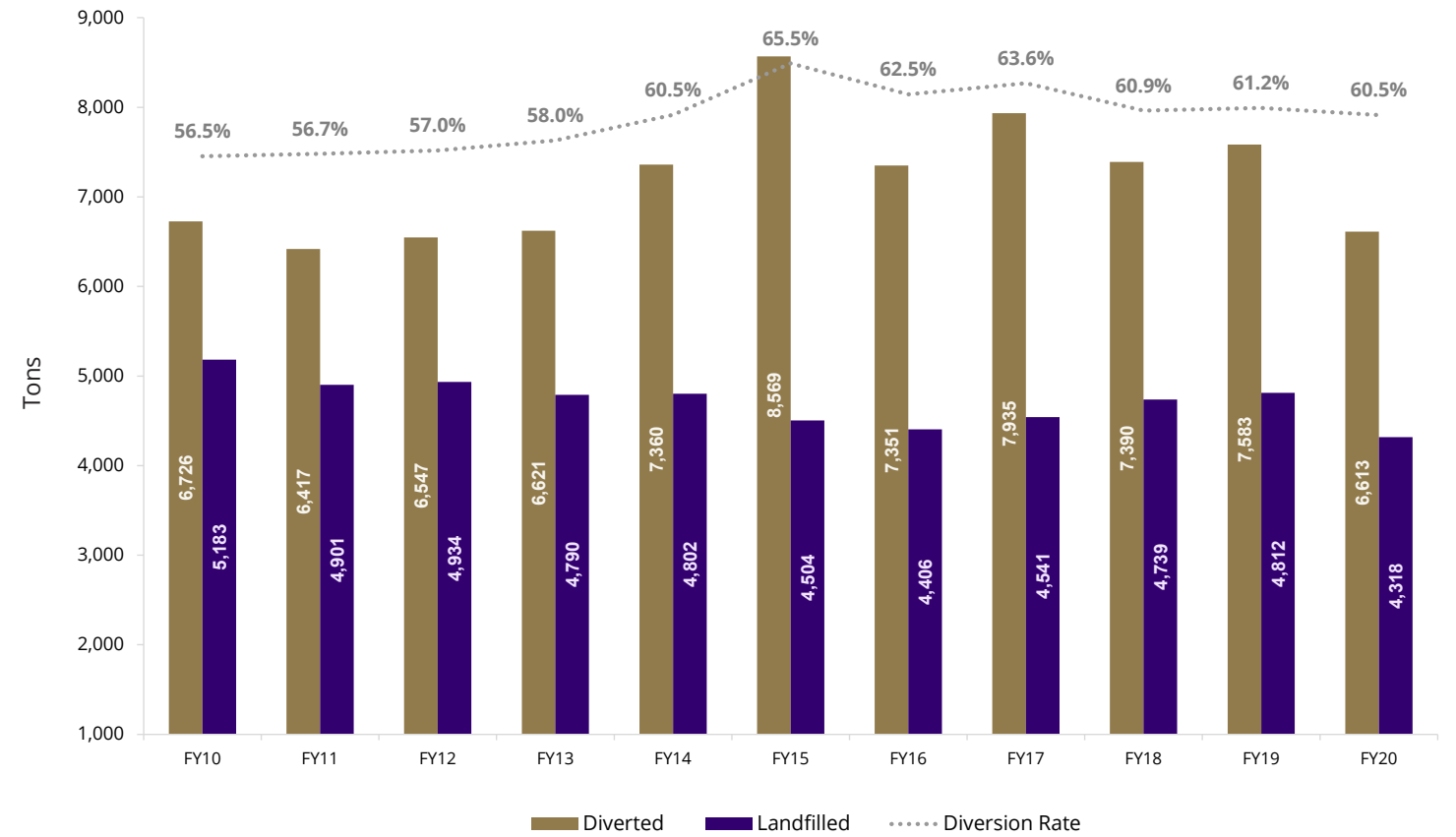
In 2015, UW Recycling took the initiative to conduct a route audit with its food waste collection vendor, Cedar Grove, in order to determine updated weight estimates for compostable materials being collected from campus. Compostable material has become lighter over the years and now consists of more lightweight or fluffy compostable plastic and paper packaging. As a result of the adjustment, the waste diversion for the following fiscal years are lower than numbers reported in fiscal year 2015.

\*Details on what materials are included in this calculation can be found in the Waste Streams section on page 12.

### 2020 DIVERTED & LANDFILLED TONNAGE



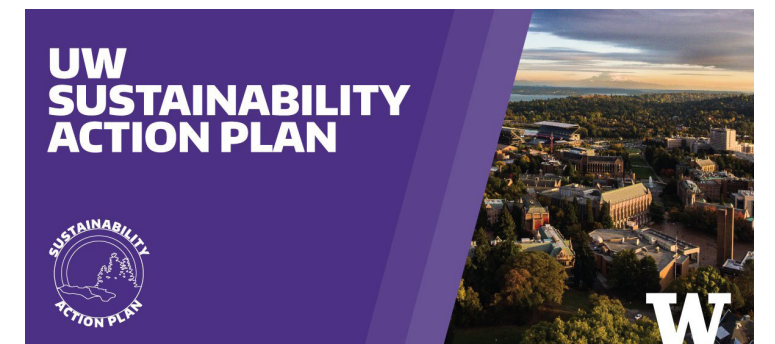
### ANNUAL DIVERTED & LANDFILLED TONNAGE



### NEW DECADE - NEW GOAL

Diversion rates are a great tool to compare similar programs as well as progress over time, however it doesn't provide a full picture. During the creation of the new UW Sustainability Action Plan, UW Recycling created a new campus-wide target: 10% Less Landfilled Waste by 2025. The goal is based on Fiscal Year 2019's landfill generation. The University will need to discard less than 4,330 tons to meet this new goal. This is nearly one million pounds less each year!

The UW can achieve this goal by moving compostable and recyclable material out of the landfill and into the correct waste streams. Less wasteful practices will also help our landfill generation decrease. UW Recycling is committed to reducing the amount of material sent to the landfill and will focus on these options in the coming years.



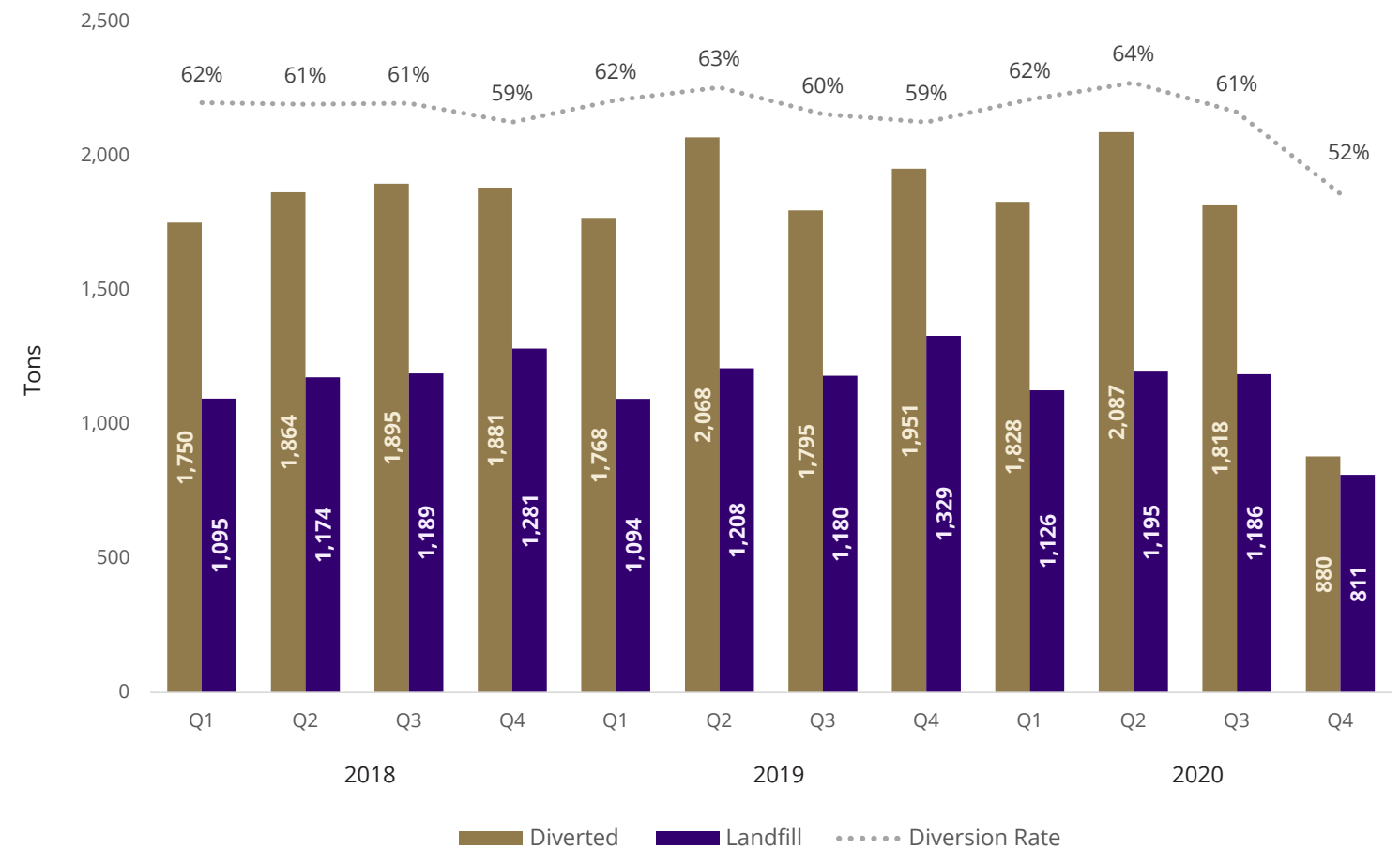


Chalk art written near a UW Recycling vehicle during onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACT ON THE UW'S WASTE

In March 2020, UW pivoted to primarily remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person events and activities were canceled or transitioned to a virtual environment. On-campus residents were reduced by about 80% over several months. The pandemic also caused sporting event cancellations, limited food service and the temporary closure of the UW Surplus store. In this transition, a significant amount of waste was reduced.

### QUARTERLY DIVERTED & LANDFILLED TONNAGE



Quarter 4 or spring quarter (April - June) is usually a quarter with a high amount of landfilled tonnage. In 2020, landfilled material dropped by 39% (518 tons) compared to the same months in FY 19. The diversion rate dropped significantly with a 55% (1,071 tons) decrease in diverted material compared to the same months in FY 19. Mixed recyclables, food waste, and surplus and donations streams all dropped substantially across campus. Landfilled material was reduced in all sectors of campus except the UW Medical Center where 43% of UW's landfilled waste was generated in spring quarter.

## NET AVOIDED DISPOSAL COST

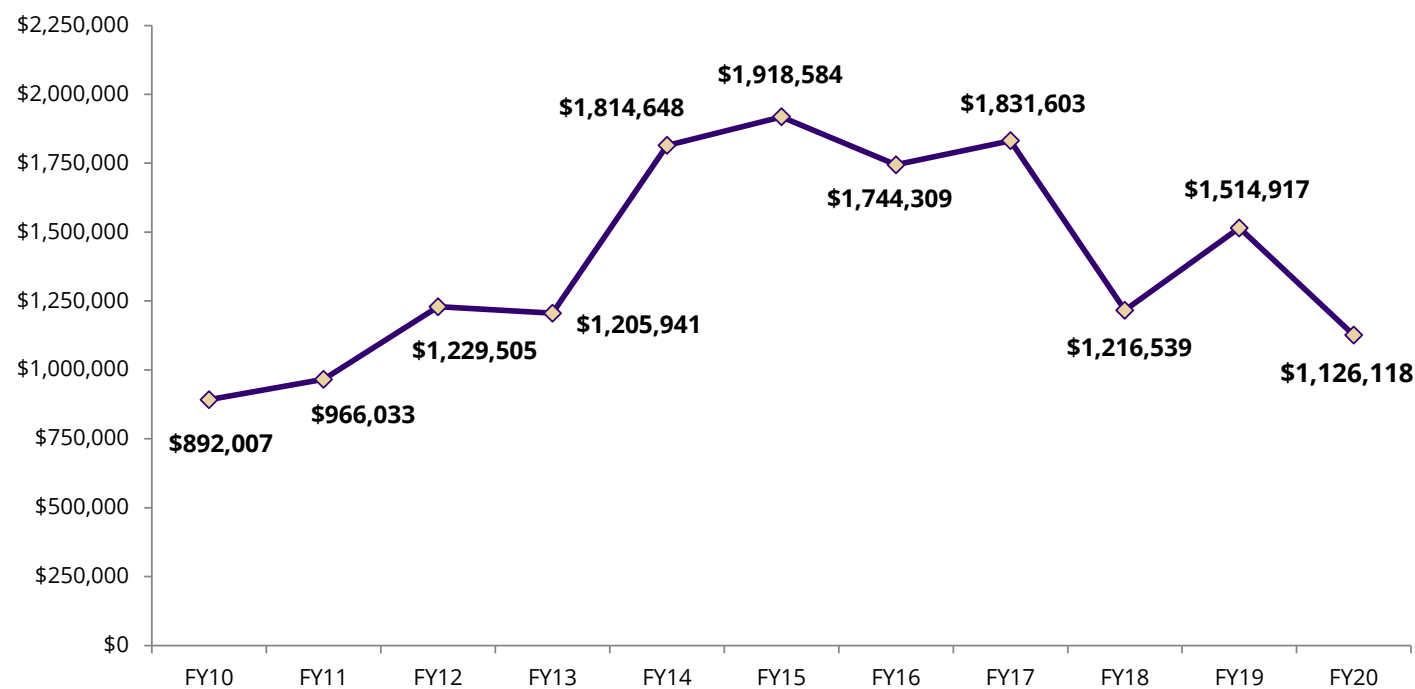
Net avoided disposal cost is a calculation that shows the financial benefits of UW Recycling’s program and the cost savings that recycling provides. The net avoided disposal cost is calculated by looking at two things: the cost to recycle materials rather than landfill them and the overall program and operation costs to run the recycling and solid waste program.

Note that recycled and landfilled special wastes are not included when calculating the net avoided disposal cost. Recycled special waste cannot be landfilled and does not contribute to the savings achieved through recycling. Its inclusion in the net avoided disposal cost would significantly increase the average cost per ton to recycle — thereby misrepresenting the overall average cost per ton to recycle. Recycled special waste includes electronics, fluorescent bulbs and electronic media.

Landfilled special waste is not included when calculating the net avoided disposal cost because the high costs associated with its disposal would skew the average cost per ton to landfill. Landfilled special waste includes biowaste and sharps.

Once the figures are calculated, we subtract the average cost per ton to recycle from the average cost per ton to landfill. Then we multiply the difference by the total tons recycled. A positive net avoided disposal cost demonstrates that it costs less to recycle than to landfill waste. The fiscal year 2020 net avoided disposal cost was \$1,126,118.

### ANNUAL NET AVOIDED DISPOSAL COST



## HIGHLIGHT: WASTE DIVERSION & REDUCTION STUDENT ASSISTANT

To make progress towards our waste diversion goals, UW Recycling created a dedicated Waste Diversion & Reduction Student Assistant position in fiscal year 2020.

The UW Facilities Student Internship Program funded the position. The program is designed to give students a pre-professional learning experience related to the student’s field of study or career interest.

The Waste Diversion & Reduction Student Assistant worked alongside UW Recycling’s Waste Diversion Student Assistant on various projects. Two of these projects involved researching grants to help with waste reduction and social media content creation.



*UW SEED representative and Pooja Kumar, UW Recycling Waste Diversion Student Assistant*

### WASTE REDUCTION GRANTS

The student assistants researched grants that could directly impact the University’s waste reduction goals. They identified current programs and organizations that could benefit from the grants and proposed possible projects to the groups.

One of the projects focused on expanding the UW Food Pantry’s staffing to increase food gleaning/donations and implement better food handling to decrease waste. UW Recycling student assistants worked with the UW Food Pantry staff to apply for the Seattle Public Utilities Waste-Free Communities Matching Grant. Due to the students’ efforts, the UW Food Pantry received the grant and was awarded \$15,000.

These project proposals and the student assistants’ research will assist campus staff and faculty apply for waste reduction grants in the future. Their efforts also helped UW Recycling build partnerships with other organizations across campus.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Along with grant research, the student assistants reviewed UW Recycling’s social media platforms and proposed ideas to increase student engagement. Their input as current UW students helped UW Recycling focus on equitable and inclusive messaging to reach a larger and more diverse audience. The students also designed several social media campaigns focused on encouraging students to reduce waste.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

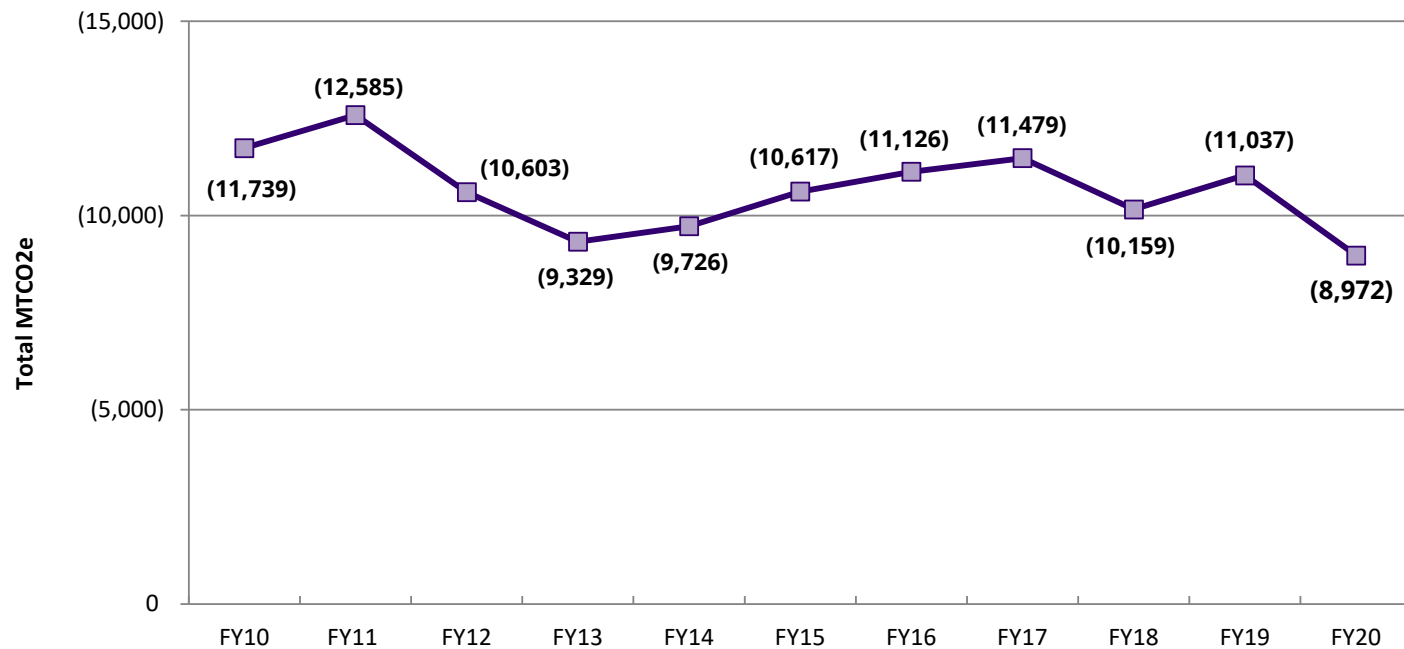
The collection of solid waste produces greenhouse gas emissions in three primary ways:

- Disposal: the anaerobic decomposition of waste in landfills produces methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Transportation: fuel combustion used in transportation of waste to disposal sites produces greenhouse gas emissions.
- Manufacturing: fossil fuels are used to obtain raw materials and manufacture new items, a process which produces greenhouse gases.

### ESTIMATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Reduction Model (WARM) is designed to estimate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reductions associated with various waste management strategies. By calculating emissions in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e), the model divides waste into multiple categories depending on waste type and allows the user to designate landfill, incineration, recycling, or composting as the method of disposal. The chart below shows GHG emission reductions over the past 10 years at UW. The numbers in parentheses represent the net reduction of GHG emissions as a result of the University's recycling and composting programs.

**NET REDUCTION OF GHG EMISSIONS**



## UW RECYCLING'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

A carbon footprint is defined as the total set of GHG emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product. By diverting 61% of the waste generated in fiscal year 2020, the University's recycling and solid waste programs had a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 8,972 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. The WARM tool (version 14) reports net emissions only from the mixed municipal solid waste category, while recycling and composting are considered less GHG intensive. The results of the WARM calculations are in the chart below.

### WARM CALCULATIONS

MATERIALS	TONS	MTCO <sub>2</sub> e
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste	4,318	0
Food Scraps	1,649	(998)
Yard Trimmings	415	27
Cardboard	279	(868)
Concrete	318	(45)
Dimensional Lumber	162	(238)
Leaves	50	19
Mixed Metals	325	(1,429)
Mixed Paper	469	(1,611)
Mixed Recyclables	1,360	(3,602)
Personal Computers	88	(225)
Tires	4	(2)
<b>FY 20 TOTAL</b>	<b>9,437*</b>	<b>(8,972)</b>

### WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?

The recycling efforts at the University of Washington have a positive effect on our environment and our community. In fiscal year 2020, the University's recycling and solid waste programs:

- Conserved energy equivalent to 395 American households' annual energy consumption.
- Reduced energy consumption equivalent to 7,828 barrels of oil.
- Reduced pollution equivalent to taking 1,888 cars off the road for a year.

\* The total tons listed in version 14 of the WARM tool calculation are lower than total tons of material generated during fiscal year 2020 due to the limited materials recognized by the WARM model.

## WASTE STREAMS

### DIVERTED RECYCLED WASTE STREAMS

Recycled materials accounted for 61% (6,613 tons collected) of the total materials disposed of in fiscal year 2020. On campus, recycled materials are consolidated into combined material streams that mirror industry standards and are categorized as follows:

#### Combined Fiber

Combined fiber is cardboard, mixed paper, and combined paper/cardboard. This does not include fiber tonnage that is recycled through single-stream recycling receptacles, which is captured below in the Mixed Recyclables stream.

#### Construction Waste

Construction waste includes mixed construction and demolition (C&D) materials, concrete, asphalt and metal. Mixed C&D includes treated or painted wood, metal, carpet and concrete/asphalt when those items cannot be separated out from the rest of the material. When possible, concrete, asphalt and metal are collected separately for recycling.

#### Food Waste

Food waste includes any food, compostable paper, compostable packaging and serveware.

#### Mixed Recyclables

Mixed recyclables are collected in mixed containers recycling bins or single-stream recycling bins. Mixed containers recycling includes all container-type items that are accepted by our recycling vendor, such as bottles, cans, cups, jars, cartons, jugs and aseptic packaging. Single-stream recycling combines both mixed containers recycling and paper recycling.

#### Recycled Special Waste

Materials that are banned by law from landfill disposal due to their potentially toxic properties or materials that must be recycled separately include:

- Batteries, electronic media (disks), and electronics (cell phones, computers and televisions)
- Fluorescent lighting, lead, mercury and refrigerants
- Plastic film
- Printer/copier cartridges and components
- Styrofoam, mattresses, textiles and tires
- Used cooking oil collected from campus dining facilities
- White goods (freezers, refrigerators, watercoolers, etc.)

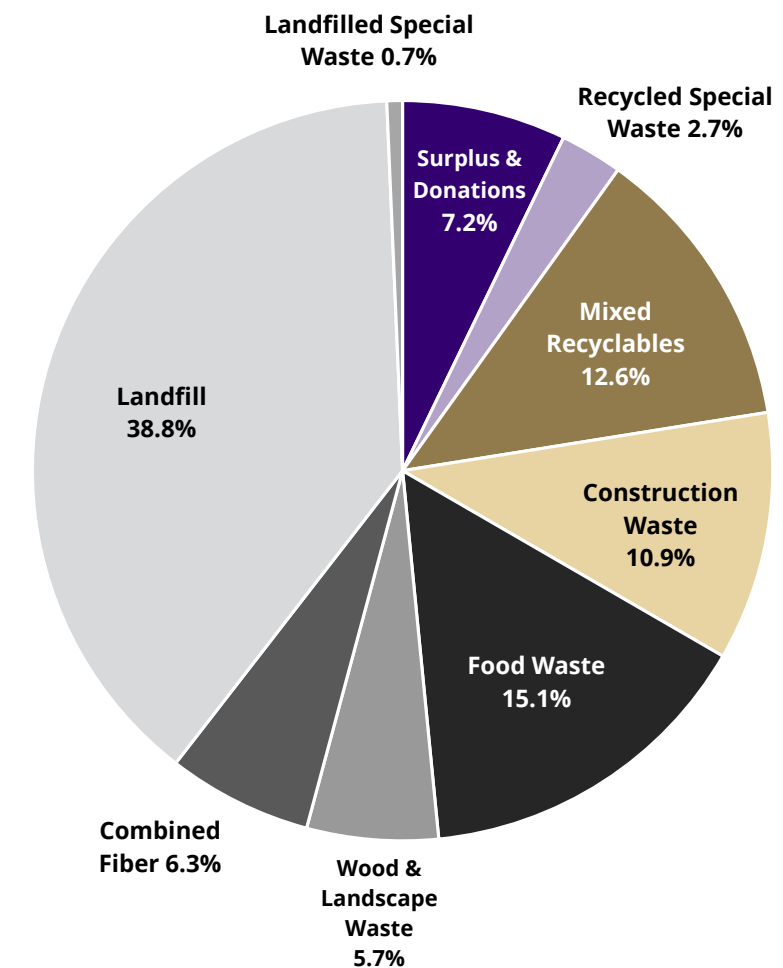
#### Surplus and Donations

Resold items and donations are included in our waste diversion because the University of Washington measures its sustainability performance by using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®). STARS® includes reselling as a criterion for waste diversion. All items purchased with University funds or given to the University that are no longer needed by a department—whether they are in working or non-working condition—must be transferred to UW Surplus for recycling, resale or disposal. Tonnage for resold items, donations collected from SCRAM (our student move-out program) and food donations collected from UW Housing & Food Services cafés and dining locations are captured in the surplus and donations stream. However, tonnage for all surplus items that are recycled is captured in the construction waste stream.

#### Wood and Landscape Waste

Wood/landscape waste includes untreated and unpainted wood and pallets, as well as landscape debris.

### 2020 WASTE STREAMS





## LANDFILLED WASTE STREAMS

Landfilled materials collected on campus accounted for 39% (4,318 tons collected) of the total materials disposed of in fiscal year 2020. The materials are defined in the following categories:

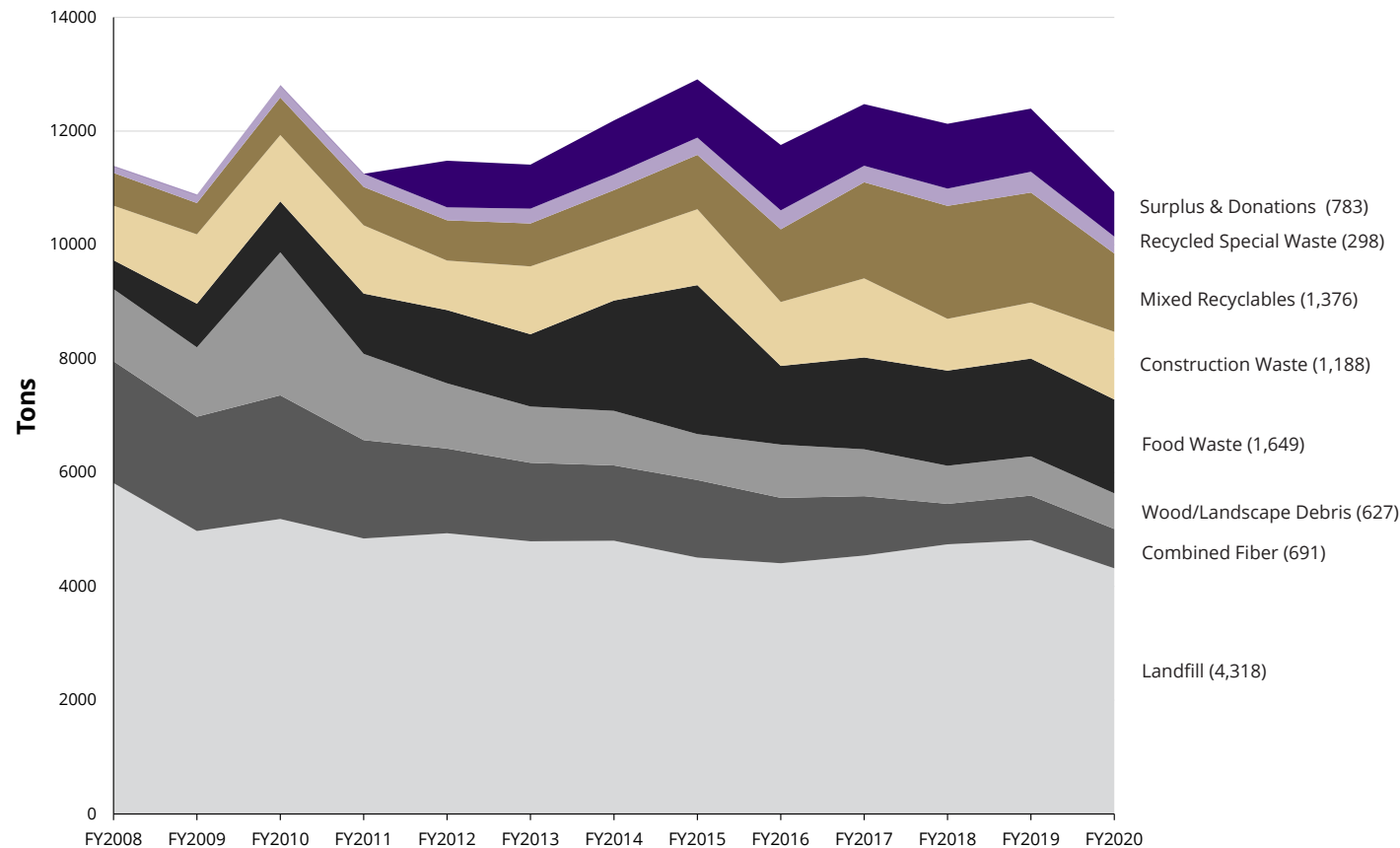
### Solid Waste:

Solid waste includes all materials that cannot be recycled through one of the above listed streams or are placed in containers labeled as “trash” or “landfill.” These materials are sent to the landfill for disposal. According to the 2018 Waste Characterization study, 62% of the material sent to the landfill as solid waste is recyclable or compostable. This means that 2,546 tons of the material sent to the landfill may have been recyclable or compostable.

### Landfilled Special Waste:

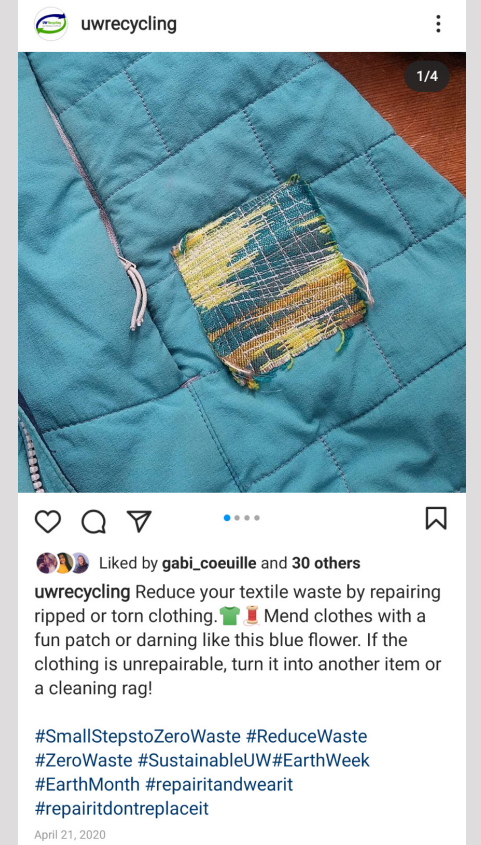
Landfilled special waste is regulated by state law and must not be disposed of in the regular waste stream. This category includes biowaste and sharps waste. Biowaste is material that may be contaminated with biohazardous material (including recombinant or synthetic DNA/RNA) and is hauled by a UW contracted vendor that treats the material prior to disposal. Sharps refers to instruments used to puncture or perform incisions which in turn can injure waste handlers if disposed of in a regular waste container.

## HISTORICAL TREND OF WASTE STREAMS



## SMALL STEPS TO ZERO WASTE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In honor of Earth Month, UW Recycling promoted low-waste tips on Instagram and Facebook.



## HIGHLIGHT: OUTREACH & EDUCATION

In order to improve waste diversion and reduction at the University of Washington, UW Recycling conducts outreach events across campus to a variety of audiences. Over the course of the year, the team partnered with more than 20 campus groups and external organizations to conduct 58 outreach events.

UW Recycling's team interacted with 6,763 people at events and outreach activities. More than 70% of these interactions occurred during football tailgating activities in autumn quarter of 2019.

After classes and staff moved to primarily remote operations in March, UW Recycling organized and joined several virtual events, totaling 380 staff, faculty, students and guests in attendance.

## PARTNERSHIPS



### UW SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS JULY 2019

During summer 2019, UW Summer Youth Programs invited the team to present at a camp session based on the theme of metamorphosis. The team developed a program to illustrate how waste goes through metamorphosis by showing campers the processes of compost and recycling.



### UW ATHLETICS AUG. - NOV. 2019

UW Recycling and student volunteers from the Student Association for Green Environments (SAGE) handed out blue recycling bags at all 7 Husky home football games to 4,815 tailgaters. Tailgaters used their blue bags to separate recyclable cans and bottles from the rest of their game-day waste.



### UW NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

NOV. 2019 & MAY 2020

For the second year, the team guest-taught four NUTR302 "Food Systems: Harvest to Health" labs in autumn 2019 and spring 2020. These lab sessions focused on local compost processes. In total, these lectures reached 277 students.



### UW SEED & ASUW STUDENT FOOD COOPERATIVE

FEB. - MARCH 2020

The UW participated in RecycleMania: Campus Race to Zero Waste, a friendly competition where campuses compete to divert waste from the landfill. UW Recycling partnered with the student group, Students Expressing Environmental Dedication (SEED), on an event in dining halls. The team also promoted ASUW's Student Food Cooperative's bulk foods store. Other events included a social media scavenger hunt highlighting sustainable campus locations and a trash art contest.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some events were canceled or moved to virtual platforms. The UW took 1st place within the PAC-12 by maintaining a waste diversion rate of 62%.



### ZERO WASTE WASHINGTON APRIL 2020

With typical Earth Day events put on hold in April, the team developed a social media campaign about reducing waste. UW Recycling held two virtual events: a Trash Talk with UW Recycling staff and a presentation with Heather Trim of Zero Waste Washington to talk about waste reduction initiatives in the state.



### COMPOST MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE MAY 2020

International Compost Awareness Week followed a busy Earth Month. The team developed a social media campaign to share tips on how to compost waste and the benefits of using compost. UW Recycling hosted Susan Thoman of the Compost Manufacturing Alliance for an engaging virtual presentation.



### FIRST YEAR PROGRAMS JUNE 2020

In June, UW Recycling led a short training on waste sorting practices for incoming Advising & Orientation (A&O) Leaders. Orientation Leaders were provided with a one-page waste sorting guide to share with their group of new students. Information about UW Recycling was also incorporated in to the U101 program and the 2020 Husky Guide.

## COLLECTION SERVICES

Two types of collection services are provided at the University of Washington: self-haul and vendor-provided. The type of service depends on the amount and type of material generated.

### SELF-HAUL SERVICE

The UW Recycling crew collects recyclables (cans, bottles, containers, paper and cardboard) and garbage in University-owned collection vehicles from the loading docks of most central campus buildings that accommodate totes or 2-yard dumpsters. The materials are transferred to designated recycling collection and waste disposal sites in Seattle.

UW Recycling crew members also collect auxiliary recyclables or recyclable materials (i.e., Styrofoam, toner cartridges, plastic film, electronic media, pallets, scrap metal) that can be diverted from the waste stream. These items cannot be co-mingled with the standard recycling containers found in campus buildings or at the loading docks. All materials are collected by a box truck or pickup truck from the building loading docks. They are then consolidated into larger roll off containers for collection by multiple vendors. This important service is integral to our overall waste diversion planning and ensures recyclable material does not end up in a landfill.

### VENDOR-PROVIDED SERVICE

All other service on campus is provided by vendors. Contracted vendors provide service for waste and recycling, organics, combined fiber, electronics, appliances and fluorescent lighting. Non-contracted vendors provide service for Styrofoam, electronic media and small personal electronics, and printer/copier cartridges and components.

#### **Cedar Grove**

Provides collection and composting of organics including food waste, compostable serviceware, clean wood/pallets and landscape debris. The contract with Cedar Grove began in January 2009 for a term of six and a half years, with renewable extensions of two years (for up to a total of six years).

#### **EcoLights**

The vendor used by Washington State that provides collection and recycling of fluorescent lighting. UW Recycling has been included on the state's fluorescent lighting contract since fiscal year 2010.

#### **Electronics Recyclers International**

Provides collection and recycling of electronics, computers, monitors and peripherals.

#### **Greendisk**

Provides collection and recycling of non-confidential electronic media, including CDs, DVDs, videotapes, small personal electronics and electronic accessories (such as power cords, hard drives and chargers).

#### **Magnum Print Solutions**

Provides collection and recycling of printer/copier cartridges and components, fuser drums, imaging units and transfer rollers.

#### **SeaDruNar**

Provides collection, processing and recycling of baled cardboard and hardbound books.

#### **Styro Recycle**

Provides collection, processing, and recycling of Styrofoam packing peanuts, polystyrene blocks and boxes, and PDPE #4 foam.

#### **Total Reclaim**

Provides collection and recycling of appliances, including refrigerant gases and white goods. Total Reclaim is a designated vendor used by Washington State.

#### **Waste Management (WM)**

Provides collection and disposal of municipal solid waste and treated biomedical waste, hauling and disposal of treated sharps, and collection and processing of recyclables. WM collects from buildings and facilities that generate large volumes of waste and/or recyclables including: residence halls and dining facilities, Magnuson Health Sciences Center, Facilities Maintenance & Construction trade shops and campus industrial yards.

Waste Management provides service during special cleanout or renovation projects and for large-scale special events including Husky Football games. They also provide regular weekend service when a location requires it, such as the University of Washington Medical Center. The contract with WM began in January 2009 for a term of six and a half years, with renewable extensions of two years (for up to a total of six years).

## PROGRAM COSTS & OPERATIONS

The success of the UW Recycling program is due primarily to the financial commitment of the UW. The University provides funding for hiring and maintaining appropriate staffing levels, leasing and operating collection vehicles, purchasing equipment and supplies, and investing in improved infrastructure. An example of improved infrastructure is purchasing waste, recycling, and compost collection containers and placing them in the most effective locations.

### FY 20 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$562,149
Benefits	\$170,812
Vehicles/Fuel	\$137,606
Disposal via Seattle Public Utilities	\$300,170
Other Costs	\$22,783
Supplies	\$62,499
Equipment	\$177,587
Electronic Recyclers International	\$44,023
Waste Management	\$1,041,737
Styro Recycle	\$3,120
Total Reclaim	\$29,520
EcoLights	\$31,925
Greendisk	\$5,784
Cedar Grove	\$467,928
Cascadia Consulting	\$10,220
Recharged disposal to self-sustaining units*	(\$1,245,494)

**Total Expenditures: \$1,822,368**

### FY 20 REVENUE

Metal Recycling	(\$20,179)
Recharged Work Orders**	(\$139,100)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>(\$159,280)</b>

**FY 2020 Total Budget\* \$1,663,088**

\*UW Recycling pays for waste disposal for the entire University, including departments that have self-sustaining budgets that bear their portion of costs. UW Recycling recovers the costs for self-sustaining departments by recharging these costs back to the departments. In fiscal year 2020, total recharges to self-sustaining University departments for waste, recycling, and compost collection and disposal.

\*\*UW Recycling charges hourly rates for the operations team to provide services such as special event waste container rental, delivery, set up and collection. UW Recycling also purchases containers for new and renovated buildings, recharged to Capital Projects and self-sustaining groups.

### FY 20 STAFF

15 Staff Members (14 FTE)

### ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Manager (1 FTE)  
 Program Coordinators (3 FTE)  
 Marketing & Outreach Specialist (1 FTE)\*  
 Student Assistants (0.5 - 1 FTE)

### OPERATIONS

Program Operations Manager (1 FTE)  
 Truck Lead (1 FTE)  
 Waste Collectors (3 FTE)  
 Litter Collectors (2 FTE)

### WAREHOUSE

Driver/Warehouse Worker (1 FTE)

### VEHICLES

Rear-load waste & recycling compaction vehicles (3)  
 Box truck (1)  
 Utility pickup trucks (3)

\*Position is shared with our sister operational unit, Custodial Services, within Building Services Department.

## LOOKING AHEAD: FISCAL YEAR 2021 PRIORITIES

The UW Recycling team will focus on minimizing the amount of compostable waste discarded in the landfill and recycling streams during this upcoming year. This will help us meet the UW Sustainability Action Plan target to reduce landfilled solid waste by 10% by 2025. These efforts will also support our work to reduce contamination among all waste streams. UW Recycling will reach these goals through infrastructure improvements, consistent educational outreach and innovative programming.

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Plan and implement waste infrastructure for new and renovated buildings including Hans Rosling Center for Population Health, Parrington Hall and Kincaid Hall.
- Increase access to compost and continue standardizing public area bins across campus.

### Educational Outreach

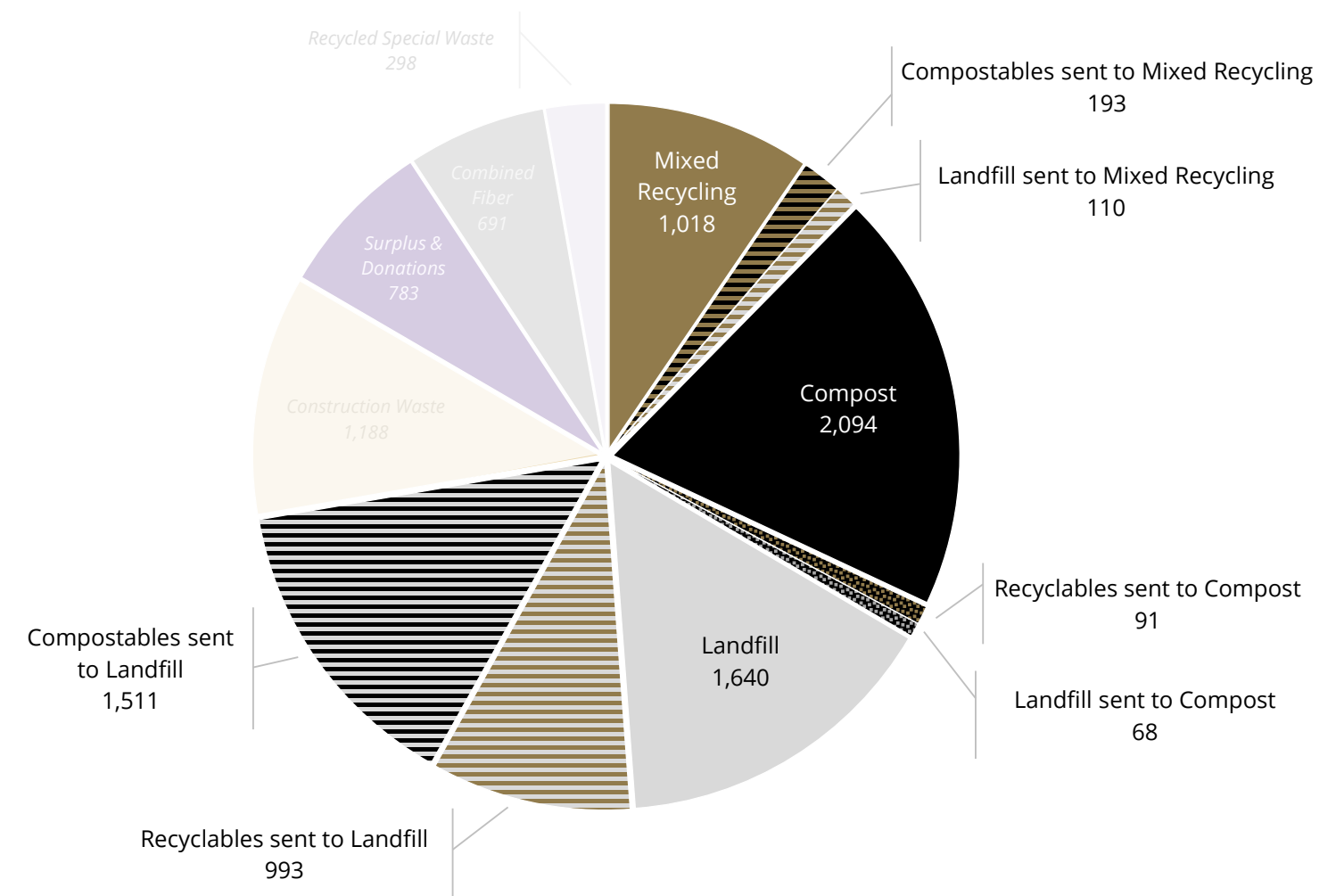
- Continue to grow partnerships across campus to become a regular resource for The Whole U, First Year Programs and registered student organizations.
- Collaborate with the Sustainability Studio student course to survey faculty to grow existing relationships and create new partnerships.
- Incorporate best practices regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion when creating educational content.
- Increase virtual “Trash Talk” presentations and accessible online content for faculty, staff and student groups.
- Finalize new online waste diversion training for UW Facilities new employee orientation.
- Continue to foster the development of student-driven Campus Race to Zero-Waste (previously RecycleMania) programs. The campaign, which lasts eight weeks, will focus on plastic waste reduction.

### Innovative Programming

- Promote food recovery programs across campus to divert edible food from compost, recycling and landfilled waste streams.
- Hire a Zero Waste Program Assistant to complete a campus assessment through the Post Landfill Action Network’s Atlas Fellowship program.
- Continue to implement sustainable practices adopted during remote work like reduced printing, digital note-taking, and virtual conferences and events.

## ESTIMATED RECOVERABLE MATERIAL IN 2020 WASTE STREAMS

(AMOUNT IN TONS)



This chart shows recoverable materials within the three primary waste streams: mixed recycling, compost and landfill. Contamination rates from the 2018 Waste Characterization Study were applied to waste disposed in FY 20. 1,084 tons of recyclables and 1,704 tons of compostables were put in the wrong bin.

This chart resonates with our goals for FY 21 because it demonstrates the opportunity to divert over 1,000 tons of compost from mixed recycling and landfill. Getting compost out of the landfill and recycling could reduce garbage by 36.5% and recycling by 14.6% (since compost in recycling is considered contamination).

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*Program Coordinator Madeline Schroeder sorting items during SCRAM (UW Recycling's student move-out program)*



## **THANK YOU**

UW Recycling thanks the University's students, staff, faculty, and community partners for their commitment to the environment, willingness to recycle, and overall support of the program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the University community has supported sustainability by attending our events and remaining committed to waste reduction and diversion. It is through everyone's collective efforts and creativity during unforeseen circumstances that the University of Washington has achieved such great success in sustainability.