

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year  
2011

University of Washington

## Fiscal Year Success

**The University of Washington's Recycling & Solid Waste program achieved great success in fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011). A list of fiscal year 2011 accomplishments is included in this highlight. For more detailed data analysis and program highlights, please contact us at [recycle@uw.edu](mailto:recycle@uw.edu) or 206.685.2811.**

The University of Washington continues to be a leader in waste reduction. The University builds on prior years' successes, resulting in additional tons of waste being diverted from the landfill. The University achieved a 57% diversion rate during the 2011 fiscal year. We continue to be on an upward trend of waste diversion, implementing innovative programs that will ultimately set us on the path toward achieving 70% waste diversion by year 2020.

The total tonnage of material disposed of in fiscal year 2011 was 11,318 tons. Of this amount, solid waste accounted for 43% (4,901 tons) of the total material disposed of in fiscal year 2011. Recycled material accounted for 57% (6,417 tons) of the total materials disposed of in fiscal year 2011. Material is collected by Recycling & Solid Waste crew and by the University's contracted waste and recycling collection services vendor.

This past year, costs to dispose of material in the landfill and costs to recycle materials remained relatively unchanged. However, the overall amount of garbage decreased and the overall amount of material diverted from the landfill increased, resulting in additional savings over the previous fiscal year. If the material recycled in fiscal year 2011 had been landfilled, the University would have paid an additional \$966,033 on its garbage bill.

Although net greenhouse gas emissions resulted from the waste landfilled, there were net reductions in emissions from all material recycled. Based on a model that estimates greenhouse gas emissions and reductions, the University's Recycling & Solid Waste program had an overall net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 12,585 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>E).



**Achieved a 57% diversion rate.**



**Saved more than \$966,000 by recycling & composting.**



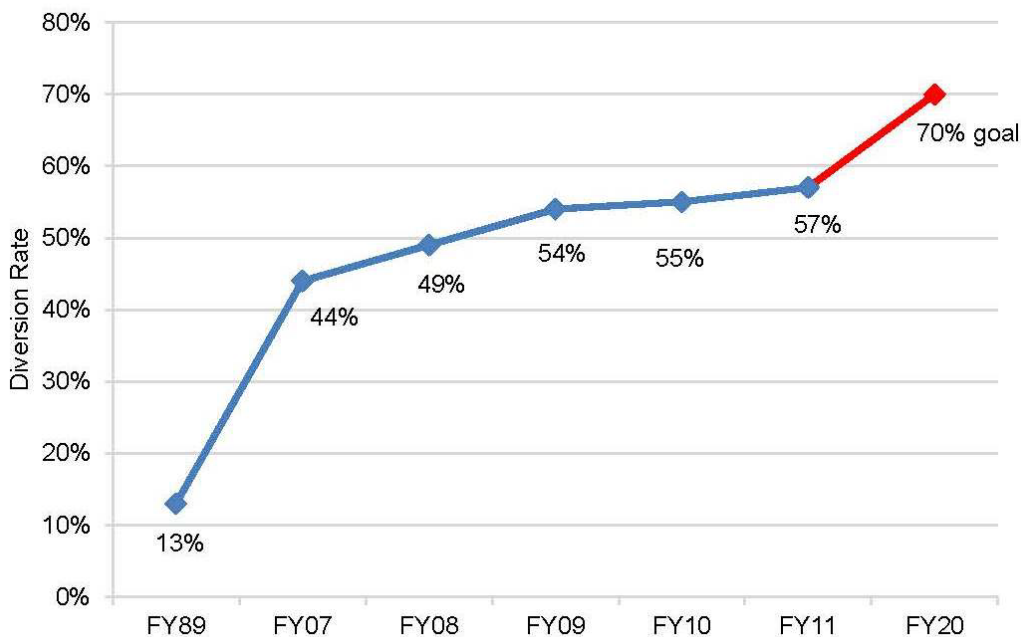
**Net reduction of more than 12,500 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.**



**Expansion of MiniMax to more than 600 workstations, bringing total number of converted workstations to nearly 4,000.**



**Diverted more than 8 tons of material through donations and reuse at our annual SCRAM: Student Moveout donation event.**



FY2011 Diversion Rate Comparison Chart

**Recyclable material collected on campus is consolidated into combined material streams that mirror the industry standards and are categorized as follows:**

- **Combined Fiber**

Combined fiber is cardboard, mixed paper, and combined paper/cardboard.

- **Construction & Demolition**

Construction and demolition (C&D) is mixed C&D, concrete/asphalt, and metal. Mixed C&D includes metal and concrete/asphalt when those items cannot be separated out from the rest of the material. Where possible, concrete/asphalt and metal are each collected separately for recycling.

- **Organics**

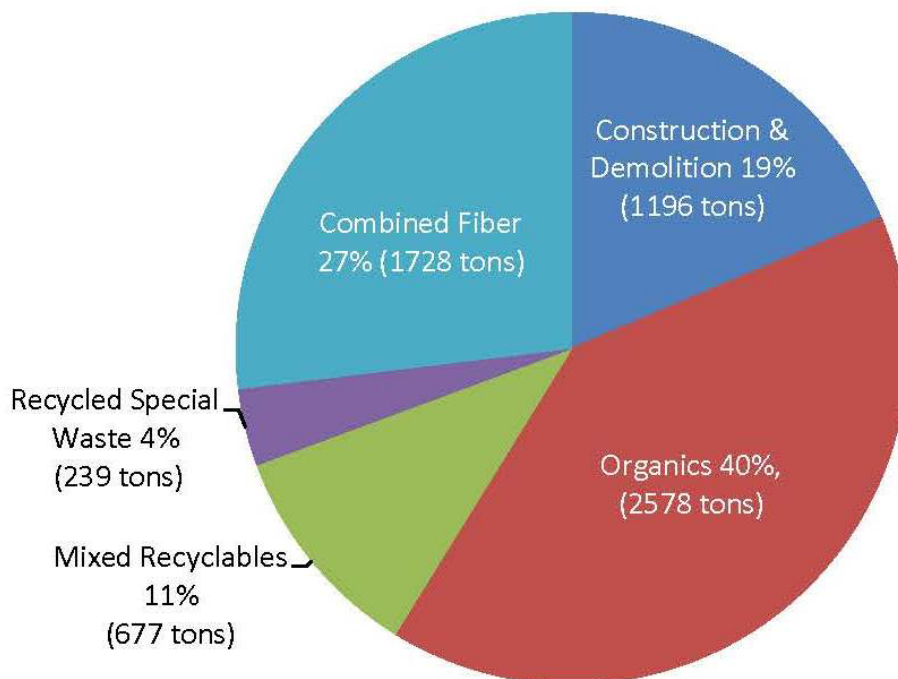
Organics is landscape debris, clean wood/pallets, and food waste.

- **Recycled Special Waste**

Recycled special waste is all waste that contains potentially toxic substances, such as mercury, refrigerants, and lead, and therefore is banned by law from disposal in the landfill. This stream includes electronics, white goods, fluorescent lighting, and batteries. Also included in the tonnage for this stream are printer/copier cartridges and components; electronic media, such as DVDs and computer disks; and small personal electronics, such as cell phones and PDAs. For the first time in fiscal year 2011, the tonnages for donations collected at our annual SCRAM: Student Moveout program were also included.

- **Mixed Recyclables**

Mixed recyclables is cans/bottles, single stream recycling, and plastics. Cans/bottles includes all container-type material that is accepted in our local recycling stream such as bottles, cans, cups, jars and jugs. There are designated bins for cans/bottles in all campus buildings. Single-stream recycling combines both cans/bottles and paper and is collected on each floor of each residence hall. Plastics include plastic film, hard plastics, and Styrofoam.



FY2011 All Recycling Streams Pie Chart

## MiniMax

MiniMax, the desk-side, self-service recycling and waste collection program, began as a pilot program at UW Tower in 2008. Based on the success at the Tower, MiniMax expanded to other locations on campus and became the standard for new construction and renovation projects.

By the end of fiscal year 2011, an additional 600 workstations had been converted to MiniMax, bringing the total number of workstations to 4,000.

The self-service model of MiniMax is meant to build awareness around recycling, promote personal responsibility for waste generation, and allow custodians to direct their time to essential cleaning tasks. The mini waste bins are also unlined, which significantly reduces the number of plastic liner bags going to the landfill.



## Trash-In 2011

Building off the success of Trash-In 2010, the 2011 event was held on April 12, 2011, at the Bryants Building Annex. With the assistance of Custodial Services, Recycling & Solid Waste received one day's worth of trash from designated campus buildings and sorted it into categories that mirror the streams currently collected on campus.

Trash-In 2011 represents an isolated snapshot of material that is still being thrown away on campus. Recycling & Solid Waste uses the data generated from the event to direct its education and outreach in future campaigns. The annual trash sorting event will continue to help Recycling & Solid Waste work toward reaching its goal of diverting 70% of the University's waste from the landfill by 2020.



**Recycling & Solid Waste would like to thank the University's students, faculty, staff, and community partners for their commitment to the environment, willingness to recycle, and support of the program. It is through everyone's collective efforts that the University of Washington has achieved such great success.**