

ZERO WASTE ANNUAL REPORT
2016 – 2017

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Executive Summary

“Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient, and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.

Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”

- *Courtesy of the Zero Waste International Alliance*

Here at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, our campus is dedicated to zero waste. In 2007, UCCS formed the Climate Action Committee as an original signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). Then in 2012, the University developed the UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan to prepare for the next decade of sustainability-specific campus goals.

UCCS Climate Action Plan:

https://www.uccs.edu/Documents/sustain/560-cap_1.pdf

UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan:

<https://www.uccs.edu/Documents/sustain/SustainabilityStrategicPlan-Final.pdf>

At the Office of Sustainability, our Zero Waste team is committed to meeting these goals and paving the way for the next generation of student citizens. But to us, zero waste is more than just a goal; it's a lifestyle that impacts our community and environment every single day. The choices that we make change the way we live our lives both individually and together. At UCCS, we believe that the actions of our students ripple beyond our campus, city, and nation as a whole. It is all of our responsibility to make decisions that will meet both the needs of society today and of the future.

We cannot change the world alone. It is the ambition of the Zero Waste team to enable students to be the change they want to see at UCCS. For the student who wants to know how they can make a difference, we offer you resources, support, and encouragement for you to make that happen. Our program revolves around infrastructure, events, and educational opportunities in order to build relationships that bridge groups at UCCS together. We hope that the role you play on and off our campus is one that allows you to excel and encourage others to plan for the future, protect the planet, and serve others in your community. Let's build a sustainable future together.

Name: _____

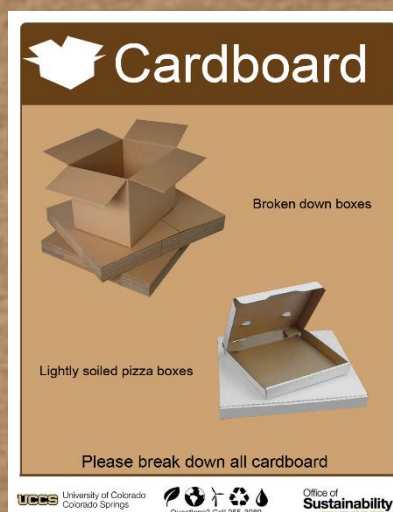
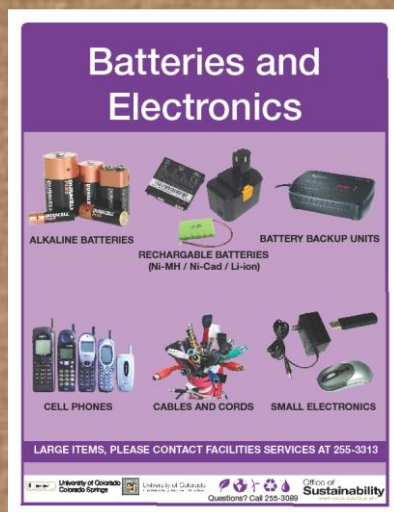
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Words are hidden     and .

CREEKWEEK
RECYCLING
BIKEJAM



ZERO WASTE PROGRAMS



The Zero Waste Team works with many different departments and organizations at UCCS, such as Facilities and Auxiliary Services, Dining and Hospitality Services, the Kraemer Family Library, Residence Life and Housing, Clyde's Cupboard, and the Office of Student Activities.

In addition to our UCCS groups, the Zero Waste Team has also worked with a number of external organizations in the past year to help our campus move closer to 100% reused, recycled, and composted materials. A few of these groups include Waste Management, Colorado Springs Utilities, Bestway Disposal, Patagonia, Lifespan, Fountain Creek Watershed District, Goodwill Industries, Who Gives a Scrap, and All Breed Rescue & Training.

We are proud to partner with groups in conjoined efforts to bring UCCS towards zero solid waste sent to the landfill each year.

ZERO WASTE EVENTS



CREEK WEEK + CLEAN THE STREAM

Volunteers helped clean up litter scattering the Templeton Gap Floodway. Collectively, we prevented more than 20 bags of garbage, a shopping cart, and a rusted bicycle from potentially polluting the Arkansas River.

BIKE JAM + BEAT THE HILL

UCCS hits the road! Students strengthen our biking and commuting community by bringing people together to learn about sustainable transportation and show their support for bike initiatives on campus.



PATAGONIA WORN WEAR

Students brought us their old jackets, torn jeans, and other experienced clothes items to Patagonia's Worn Wear mobile repair shop. The outdoor retailer helped educate students on less consumption and how to make the most out of purchased goods.

SUSTAINNOVATE + STUDENT SUMMIT

UCCS and our CO Springs family partnered together to host several sustainable conferences held by local activists. All food and drink items were served with reusable dishes and silverware, making Sustainnovate a 100% zero waste event.

**DITCH THE DUMPSTER**

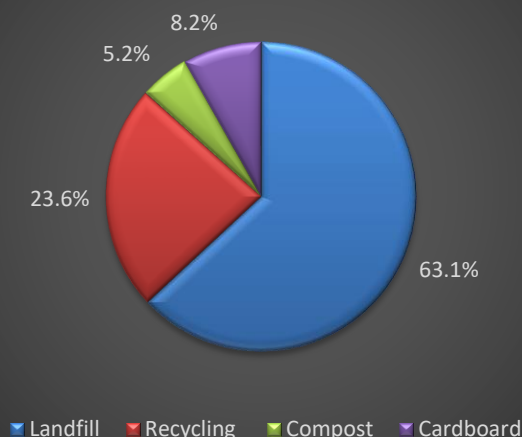
As students moved out of the residence halls last spring, they ditched the dumpster by donating unwanted items to Arc Thrift Stores, All Breed Rescue & Training, Who Gives a Scrap, and Clyde's Cupboard. Our volunteers helped assist students and collect unwanted materials from Summit Village and the Village at Alpine Valley.



DATA AND STATISTICS

Current Diversion Rate

2016-2017 Rates By Volume



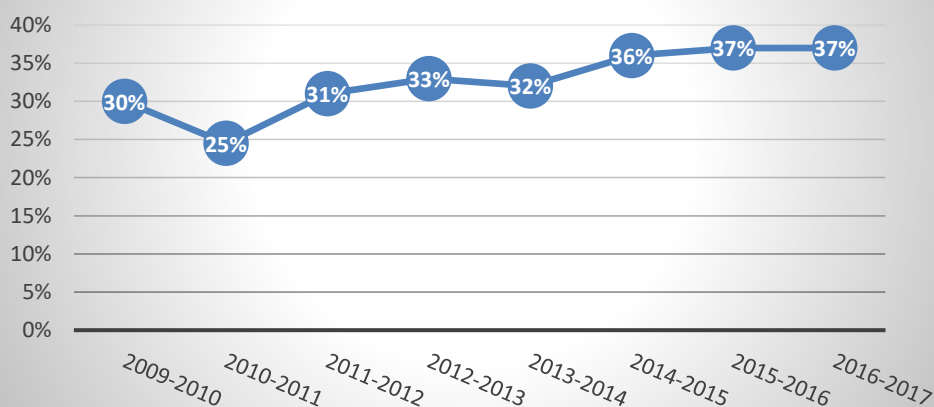
Each year, our office partners with several companies in the Colorado Springs community to collect data. We receive amounts of cardboard, compost, food donations, recycled materials and electronics, and landfilled trash UCCS produces described in volume and weight. By collecting this data, our office audits the amount of waste we are preventing from being thrown away, also

known as our diversion rate. By continuously observing data and making improvements, our office is on track to transform UCCS into a net zero campus (90% diversion rate). Based off the data collected this fiscal year, we currently have a total of 36.9% waste diverted from the landfill.

Previous Years' Comparison

UCCS has experienced a climbing percentage of diversion over the years. Although our diversion rate looks similar to year's prior, keep in mind that our campus has been expanding both geographically and in student body. As time progresses, the Zero Waste team strives to improve our diversion rate as UCCS continues to experience growth.

2009-2017 Diversion Rate (In Volume)



Thank you for supporting Zero Waste at UCCS!

