

Zero Waste Annual Report FY20 | UCCS

CAMPUS DIVERSION RATE (weight):

FY20 54.4%*

3.1% increase in diversion rate from FY19

STATE DIVERSION RATE (weight):

Colorado	15%
National	32%
UCCS	54.4% *

UCCS DIVERSION RATE (WEIGHT):

2009	22%
2010	27.3%
2011	29.9%
2012	38.2%
2013	56.3%
2014	42.7%
2015	40.5%
2016	44.8%
2017	53.3%
2018	55.2%
2019	51.3%
2020	54.4%*

UCCS AVERAGE WEEKLY WASTE PER PERSON: 1.17 lbs.**

Landfill: 0.64 lbs.

Recycle: 0.24 lbs.

Compost: 0.29 lbs.

TOTAL WASTE GENERATION FY19: 877,933 lbs.***
276,852 lbs reduction from FY19

Landfill: 461,783 lbs.

Recycle: 199,205 lbs.

Compost: 216,945 lbs.

Due to COVID-19, the campus went 100% remote Monday, March 16, 2020, which resulted in three and half months of data that have been skewed. Our campus population decreased to only front-line, essential personnel working in-person, on campus. Due to the timeframe of the initial COVID-19 impacts, the campus had no Move-Out Donations event and stopped all trash, recycle, compost pick-ups from April-June (end of FY is June 30), while continuing outdoor service work, metal recycling, and our annual collection of e-waste produced on campus.

These variables cause our data to be an inaccurate depiction of our campus operations. If we removed the April-June data for outdoor organics, metal recycling, and e-waste recycling, our diversion rate for 2020 would be 41.2%.

Along with the COVID-19 impacts, our campus composting saw a significant reduction due to contamination from front of house, back of house and illegal dumping. From November to the end of March, we 'trashed out' 64,338 lbs of compost due to contamination. All compost services were halted from April to the end of June.

Although it had no impact from COVID-19, we ended our Cardboard Collection program February 2020 due to our continued increase in buildings and no increase to budget to maintain the service. The recycling industry for the previous year had caused our operations to pay for the collection of the commodity instead of being paid for the clean material. This also played a decision in ending the program since we were paying for the material twice – through the hourly wages of the student staff and outdoor service staff that collected the material and through the final pick-up from our off-campus partner.

Even though our campus saw a significant overall reduction in waste generation, this is not an accurate depiction of our campus waste profile. We do not have the behavior change and educational awareness in place to make this a sustainable or achievable data point.

*Please note that our FY20 diversion rate had significant impacts from COVID-19. Please read the narrative above to better understand UCCS' waste profile.

** Please note that our FY20 waste per person rate had significant impacts from COVID-19. Please read the narrative above to better understand UCCS' waste profile.

*** Please note that our FY20 overall waste generation rate had significant impacts from COVID-19. Please read the narrative above to better understand UCCS' waste profile.