

Zero Waste Annual Report FY21 | UCCS

CAMPUS DIVERSION RATE (weight):

FY21: 62.0%**

7.6% increase in diversion rate from FY20

STATE DIVERSION RATE (weight):

Colorado: 15%

National: 32%

UCCS: 62.0%**

UCCS DIVERSION RATE (WEIGHT):		UCCS TOTAL WASTE GENERATION (WEIGHT):	
2009	22%	2009	932,804
2010	27.3%	2010	1,853,133
2011	29.9%	2011	1,731,206
2012	38.2%	2012	924,576
2013	56.3%	2013	1,772,923
2014	42.7%	2014	1,288,603
2015	40.5%	2015	1,036,539
2016	44.8%	2016	1,306,321
2017	53.3%	2017	1,243,005
2018	55.2%	2018	1,294,485
2019	51.3%	2019	1,154,785
2020	54.4%*	2020	859,721
2021	62.0%**	2021	508,152

UCCS AVERAGE WEEKLY WASTE PER STUDENT: 0.78 lbs.***

Landfill: 0.33 lbs.

Recycle: 0.22 lbs.

Compost: 0.23 lbs.

TOTAL WASTE GENERATION FY21: 508,152 lbs.****
351,569 lbs. reduction from FY20
646,633 lbs. reduction from FY19

Landfill: 200,735 lbs.

Recycle: 138,018 lbs.

Compost: 169,399 lbs.

COVID-19 impacts continued to significantly skew our diversion rate for FY21. Remote, in-person, hybrid, etc. were all formats used at various points of the year to reduce the spread. For example, from June 28th to Aug 1st, students, faculty, and staff worked 100% remotely; no pickups were scheduled for five weeks.

All meals served from both dining halls were served in single-use, compostable to-go containers, but there is no compost infrastructure in the residential halls. All to-go containers needed to go in the trash. Many were improperly sorted and contaminated the recycling.

Only 41,999 lbs. of the total compost came from food, compostable to-go containers, and paper towels. The remaining 127,400 lbs. came from outdoor organics, which like the end of FY20, the Outdoor Services staff continued to work in person which is why the material was consistently generated and collected.

Our trash waste stream is half of what was generated in FY20; there were fewer people consistently on campus for an entire year as opposed to the almost 100% remote for three and half months. As mentioned above, the outdoor organics collection was a continuous process along with e-waste and metals recycling. All three of these materials are very heavy and skew our diversion rate higher than it would traditionally be due to the reduction in trash generated. We report our diversion rate in weight since it is more consistently accurate and accessible data across waste streams than if we reported our diversion rate by volume.

These variables cause our data to be an inaccurate depiction of our campus operations. There is no real way to determine what our FY21 diversion rate should be since there are too many variables and fluctuations of how many people were on campus at any given length of time.

This report was generated to show longitudinal data, but our 62% diversion rate should not be celebrated or used as a milestone as we strive for 90% diversion from the landfill. 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 in the FY20 annual report to better understand UCCS' waste profile. All ZW Annual Reports are located here:

<https://sustain.uccs.edu/programs/zero-waste>

**Please note that our FY21 diversion rate had significant impacts from COVID-19. Please read the narrative above to better understand UCCS' waste profile.

***Please note that our FY21 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 FY21 overall waste generation rate had significant impacts from COVID-19. Please read the narrative above to better understand UCCS' waste profile.