

# Zero Landfill Waste

*There is no away when we throw away*

## HIGHLIGHTS

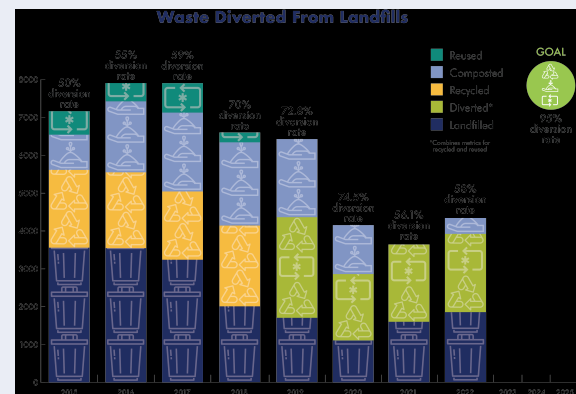
An average American generates about 4.9 pounds of landfill waste every day. Emory encourages all members of its community to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills – and Emory University is leading a multitude of efforts designed to support that goal.

The [Emory Waste Policy](#) was rolled out in January 2018 to guide campus waste management changes. Designed to achieve our 2025 goals for waste reduction and diversion, this extensive program offers convenient recycling and composting stations across campus and clear instructions to enable the entire campus community to eliminate landfill waste.

In July 2021, Emory partnered with Goodr as its holistic waste management provider. Goodr is an Atlanta-based, Black-woman-owned, sustainable food waste management B Corp whose mission is to “feed more, waste less.” Goodr works with Emory to divert composting for dining kitchen scraps and laboratory animal bedding, and recycling materials. To learn more about Goodr and the company’s partnership with Emory, click [here](#).

Emory’s [Sustainability Vision & Strategic Plan, 2025](#) includes the goal to divert 95% of non-construction campus waste from municipal landfills by that year.

According to Emory Recycles, from September 2018 to August 2019, the campus collectively diverted about 72.36% of its total waste from landfills – an over 13% increase from the 59% diverted in 2017, before the new waste policy was adopted.



[Click image for a larger view](#)

## BENEFITS

By recycling and composting at Emory, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, enhance environmental justice by reducing the negative effects of landfills on already marginalized populations, and decrease habitat loss and animal displacement due to landfills. Recycling conserves natural resources, increases economic security, prevents pollution, and helps create jobs in the community.

Emory University deeply values sustainability, and we are embracing the opportunity for our entire community to develop habits that will encourage lifelong sustainable living. The Zero Waste Ambassadors program advances these

## HOW IT WORKS

All major University buildings are equipped with [five standardized bins](#) to collect the following commodities:

- Compost
- Plastics and Metals
- Mixed Paper
- White Paper
- Landfill

Exterior bins have been standardized to provide two collection streams: compost and mixed recycling. There are designated [collection areas in most major buildings for](#)

goals, training students and staff from across Emory to educate the community about proper materials management. Ambassadors champion the zero-waste lifestyle and help to engage others on campus to do the same. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, you can apply [here!](#)

Waste is broken into specific streams to optimize revenue that can be realized from recyclables.

When there is excess food prepared in the Emory Dining locations, the student group, [Emory Food Chain](#), recovers much of the excess food and repurposes it into meals for area food pantries and shelters. This food can then feed our neighbors and be diverted from landfills.

[hard-to-recycle materials](#) – glass, packaging Styrofoam, batteries, light bulbs, ink and toner cartridges, and aerosol cans.

The servicing of desk-side waste or recycling bins by Campus Services' staff has been discontinued. While Emory staff and faculty may keep a bin or other container at their desk, they will individually transport their disposables to central collection areas.

All University events will be [zero landfill waste events](#) and free from disposable plastic water bottles by 2025, unless granted an exception by the Executive Vice President for Business and Administration.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING, COMPOSTING AND LANDFILL WASTE AT EMORY UNIVERSITY

[Waste Policy Basics](#)

[Waste Reduction and Diversion During the Pandemic](#)

[Five-Bin Waste Streams and Sorting](#)

[How to Recycle Common Confusing Items](#)

[Hard-to-Recycle Materials](#)

[Waste FAQ Bibliography](#)

### LEARN MORE

Want to help us reduce waste and keep it out of area landfills? Volunteer as a [Zero Waste Ambassador](#)! This group serves as peer-to-peer educators in residence halls, offices and labs and during events to educate about proper waste management.

Check out our [Follow the Waste](#) campaign to learn more about the environmental justice concerns relating to waste.

### QUESTIONS?

Wondering about reducing and diverting waste in the pandemic? Check out our helpful [flyer](#)

Want to help educate others about reducing and diverting waste at Emory? Apply to become a trained [Zero Waste Ambassador](#) for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Looking for where to recycle your hard to recycle materials? [Visit the Hard to Recycle Stations Map!](#)

See more details at the bottom of the page regarding our pandemic waste policies

Don't see an answer to your question on the FAQs? Email [emorysustainability@emory.edu](mailto:emorysustainability@emory.edu)