

# Wurster Hall Waste Audit Report

Performed for: Eliahu Perszyk, Facilities Manager of Wurster Hall

Funded by: The Green Initiative Fund

Performed by: Campus Recycling and Refuse Services

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## **Background:**

Wurster Hall is home to the College of Environmental Design with the departments of architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, and the ceramics department. It can have over 1,000 people occupying it at any given time. This is a multi-purpose building with offices, class rooms, studios, fabrication shop, and a café. The design studios are used by students continuously 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Students often bring food into the studios with them, as well as materials to build models, generating a large amount of materials. Ramona's is the café located on the first floor. The waste generated there is incorporated with the waste from the rest of the building. At the time of the audit, there was composting in public lobbies and in the studios but not in the bathrooms. On an average day, Wurster fills 4 landfill dumpsters and 5 landfill carts. A three day audit of the landfill was conducted to see what composition of waste was generated from Wurster Hall and how it can be reduced.

## **Results:**

The waste from Wurster Hall was collected on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2012, and on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. It was then sorted into the following major categories: landfill, mixed paper, cardboard, compost, cans/metal /glass, and all plastics. The plastics were further broken

down into plastic categorized numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Two minor categories were also sorted into: Hazardous waste and E-waste. The waste from each day was recorded.

### Total Weight (in pounds)

Category	10/25/2012	10/26/2012	11/6/2012	Totals	Percentages
Cardboard	1	11	14	26	2%
Cans, Metal, Glass	19	18	27	64	4%
Mixed Paper	47	8	78	133	9%
Landfill	55	25	70	150	10%
All Plastics	116	83	142	341	23%
Compost	310	179	300	789	52%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Notes:

- We were not able to collect from either of the back dumpsters for all three days because they were mostly loose waste. Pictures were taken as a visual audit with notes of items found.
  - One of back dumpster October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012



- One of the back dumpster October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012



- One of the back dumpster November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

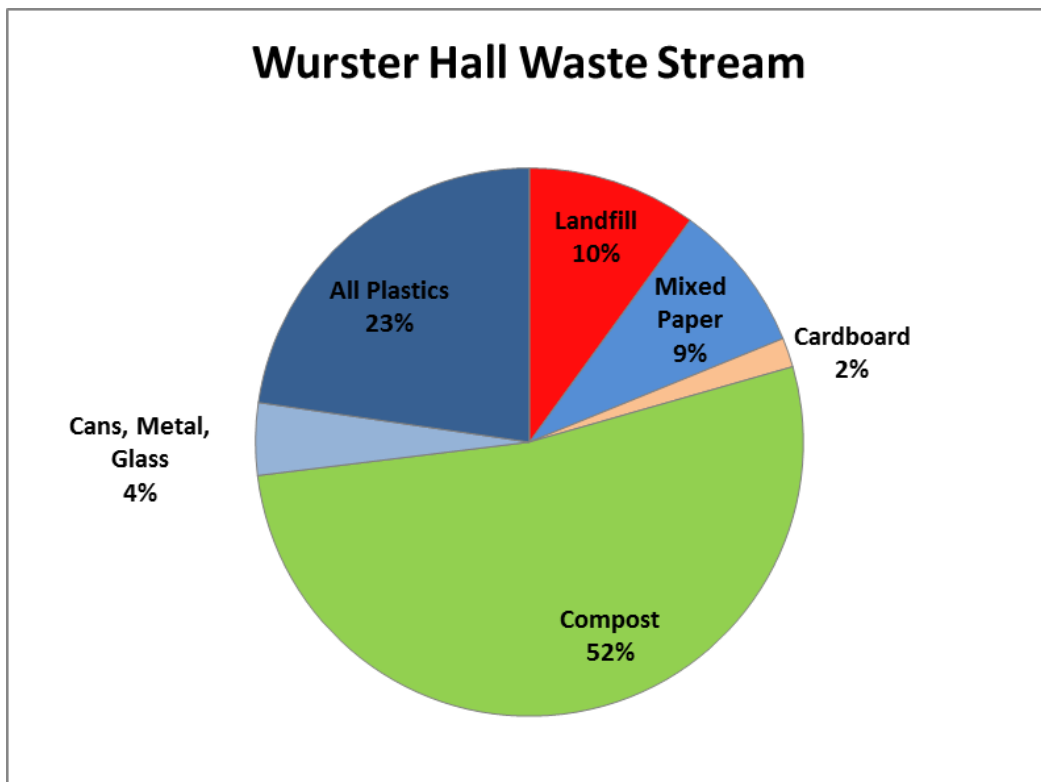


- There was also a large quantity of loose waste in the front two dumpsters that we were not able to collect on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Pictures were taken as a visual audit instead.

- One of the Front Dumpsters:



- There was a large amount of food waste, food containers, and beverage cups found in all of the dumpsters
- Wood waste was more common in the back two dumpsters for all of the days audited.
- Hazardous waste was less than a pound and consisted of pushpins and a razor blade.
- E-waste came out to be a total of 6 pounds and it consisted of
  - Keyboard
  - Computer mouse
  - Batteries
  - Headphones

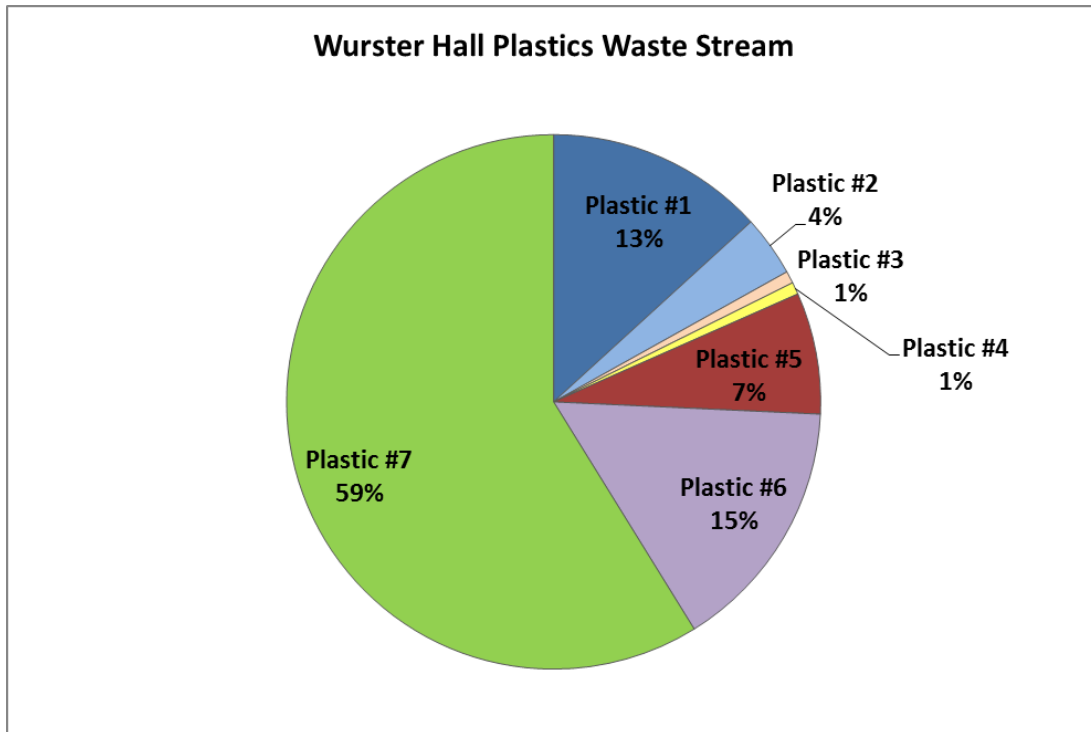


**Total Weight of Plastics  
(in pounds)**

<b>Plastic Type</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Plastic #1	18	13%
Plastic #2	5	4%
Plastic #3	1	1%
Plastic #4	1	1%
Plastic #5	10	7%
Plastic #6	21	15%
Plastic #7	80	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

- The totals for the individual numbered plastics do not add up to the total plastic weight during the full audits because they were sorted through later by the Zero Waste Research Center team. A random sample totaling 40% of the plastic weight was selected to sort through. The numbers come from the weight of all of the days added together.
- Large amounts of drinking bottles were found in the landfill
  - These were mostly for soda and water.
- There was a large amount of to-go eating utensils. They came from a variety of sites, not just Ramona's.
- There were a large number of coffee lids.



#### Key Problem Areas:

- To-go utensils and coffee lids
  - It is hard to control these items because they are not solely coming from Ramona's. They are being brought on campus by other places.
- Food waste
  - The vast amount of food waste in the landfill shows that more composting should be collected. Students bring food in with them to the studios. There also appeared to be private parties with serving platters that went with the food waste.
- Plastic bottles
  - There were a large number of plastic bottles appearing in the landfill. Maybe better signage should be set up to notify students of where to recycle them.
- Projects from the architecture classes
  - Some projects found include: ceramic pieces; paper box houses; clay work; charcoal work.

- Metal and wood scraps were found in all of the dumpsters.

## The Green Initiative Fund

University of California, Berkeley