



Waste Reduction Services, UGA Office of Sustainability
Georgia Recycling Coalition Conference – Fall 2025



In FY24, UGA sent 12+M pounds of materials to the landfill.





Challenges

- Unpredictable/unscheduled waste
- Non-recyclable Items
- Hazardous or bulky items
- Batteries & Electronics
- Lab materials – flammable, corrosive, etc.
- Events
- Tight waste mgmt/collection areas
- Largest UGA population to date (& growing)
 - 2024 Enrollment: 41,615 (up 10% from 37,606 in 2017)
 - = 6,168 tons in FY24, compared to 5,474 tons in FY18 (up 12.6%)
- Outdated/Failing Infrastructure

Investment Solutions In Practice - Leaner, Cleaner, Safer, Reliable



- Replacing larger aging vehicles with smaller, more efficient and reliable alternatives





Most
preferred



Least
preferred



Procurement

Individual Actions:

- Refuse – Skip
- Reduce – Avoid unnecessary packaging
- Repair – Look into ways to fix/mend items
- Quality vs Quantity – fewer, better

University/Community Opportunities:

- Policies and Standards
- Shared freight – Balance between overbuying and shipping individual items
- Purchasing Power of Campus Influence
- Avoiding excess packaging
- Avoiding single-use/disposable items



RACCOON EYES



Type

Date

Carrots

09/18/2025

Search Item



Time: 2025-02-18T12:41:36
Type: Carrots
Total Weight: 0.041 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T12:02:26
Type: Beef, Carrots, Apple core, Rice
Total Weight: 0.602 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T12:21:52
Type: Carrots
Total Weight: 0.1292 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T11:32:27
Type: Carrots
Total Weight: 0.094 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T11:47:52
Type: Carrots, Rice
Total Weight: 0.242 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T17:45:28
Type: Carrots
Total Weight: 0.068 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T13:11:54
Type: Carrots, Unknown, Baked potato skin, Cauliflower
Total Weight: 0.237 lb
Text: None



Time: 2025-02-18T14:52:11
Type: Unknown, Carrots
Total Weight: 0.108 lb
Text: None



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1000+

Lbs of items swapped this semester



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500+

Water Bottles saved
and redistributed in 2025



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When it comes to recycling...

BLUE IS THE
NEW
GREEN



CAN I RECYCLE THIS?
Find out here!

New Campus Standard



RESTROOMS



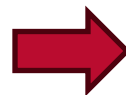
Exterior Infrastructure Standard



Before



After





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Green Labs Program
Facilities Management Division
Environmental Safety Division
Office of Research



LAB ITEMS ARE A
“NO GO”
in single-stream recycling containers.



Please bring lab items to the
CCRC Special Source Recycling Room.
Email UGA Green Labs to be onboarded.



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Can I Recycle This?



All Categories

CAN I RECYCLE THIS?

powered by CMT.TECH

Recycling can be confusing... We're here to help! While the guidelines may be different in other places, one universal rule is that all recyclables must be clean and empty! Explore this site to learn what can be recycled and composted at UGA and Athens-Clarke County. By putting waste in its place, every Dawg creates a Sustainable UGA!



Plastic Items



Metal Items



Glass Items



Cardboard and Paper Products



Styrofoam and Packaging



Clothing and Fabric Items



Appliances, Batteries, and Electronics



Food and Food-related Items

Where does it go from here? (Recycling)

Used Product



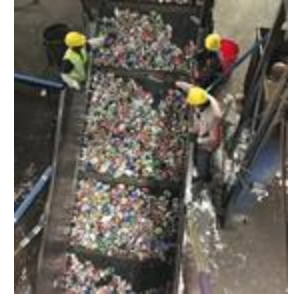
Indoor Recycling Bin



Outdoor Bin



ACC Material Recovery Facility



New Product

End Market

Hard-to-Recycle Items

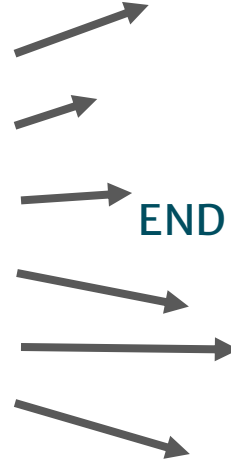


CHaRM x UGA
MLC 212



ACC CHaRM

END MARKETS!



9,445+

Light Bulbs and Tubes
Recycled in 2025

FMD and ESD handle

Universal Waste

such as batteries & bulbs



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16,824+

Lbs of Batteries
Recycled in 2025

*FMD and ESD handle
Universal Waste
such as batteries & bulbs*



Where does it go from here? (Compost)

Used Product



Indoor Compost Bin



Outdoor Compost Roll Cart



ACC Compost Facility



Fresh Food



Finished Compost

We service

120+

locations on campus

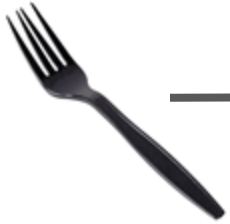
The goal of **Campus Compost**
is to institutionalize
compost on campus

“Dining Services is moving the
needle, but campus compost is
changing the culture.”



Where does it go from here? (Landfill)

Used Product



Interior Landfill Bin



Exterior Landfill Roll Cart



ACC Landfill







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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ZERO WASTE WEEKEND

FOLEY FIELD | APRIL 20-22

BE A PART OF THE CHANGE FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE UGA!



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Soccer & Softball Complex



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**ZERO WASTE
ATHLETICS**



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Next:



Next:





Thank You!

Mason Towe

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