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Office of Sustainability

CIRCULAR UGA



Waste Reduction Services, UGA Office of Sustainability

Georgia Recycling Coalition Summit – Fall 2026

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What is Circular UGA?

The goal is simple: Build a better Georgia through a culture of sustainability, circularity, and waste reduction.

UGA students, faculty, and staff will:

- Think before we buy and maximize the value of our resources through circular materials management.
- Build partnerships to innovate circular solutions that strengthen Georgia's economy.
- Create circular systems that starve landfills and promote thriving, both now and in the future, through inspired teaching, research, service, and operations.



Zero Waste Week
OCT 2026



MON 12 — **REDUCE your single use!**
Try it for a day!

TUE 13 — **SWAP SHOP Open House**
3:00 - 6:00 PM @ MLC 278

WED 14 — **CIRCULARITY Fair**
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM @ Tate Plaza
COMPOST Workshop
4:30 - 6:00 PM @ UGArden

THU 15 — **MENDING Workshop**
5:00 - 7:00 PM @ MLC Room 375

FRI 16 — **Sustainable VIRTUAL REALITY**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM @ MLC Room 375

UGA Arts Collaborative | UGArden | UGA Libraries | Office of Sustainability







UGA sends 12 million+ pounds of materials to the landfill each year.



Waste Reduction Services' Goals and Objectives

- Prioritize safety, health, and well being of UGA students, faculty, staff, and visitors
- Develop UGA Solid Waste & Circular Materials Management Master Plan
- Provide excellent customer service and eliminate single sources of failure
- "Zero Waste, Zero Accidents"

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Challenges

- Unpredictable/unscheduled waste
- Non-recyclable Items
- Hazardous or bulky items
- Batteries & Electronics
- Lab materials – flammable, corrosive, etc.
- Events
- Tight waste collection areas
- Largest UGA population to date (& growing)
- Outdated/Failing Infrastructure

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





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





Exterior updates

Leconte & Baldwin Hall

Before



After





Exterior updates

New College / Holmes-Hunter

Before



After



Exterior updates

Psychology / Journalism

Before



After



Exterior updates

Brooks / Sanford / Park

Before





After



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Exterior updates

Hodgson Oil / UGA PD

Before



After

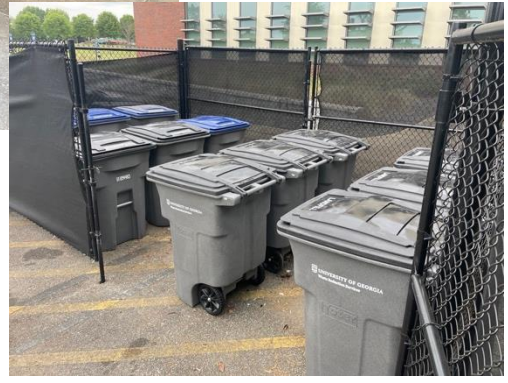


Exterior updates

Vet Teaching Hospital

Before





After



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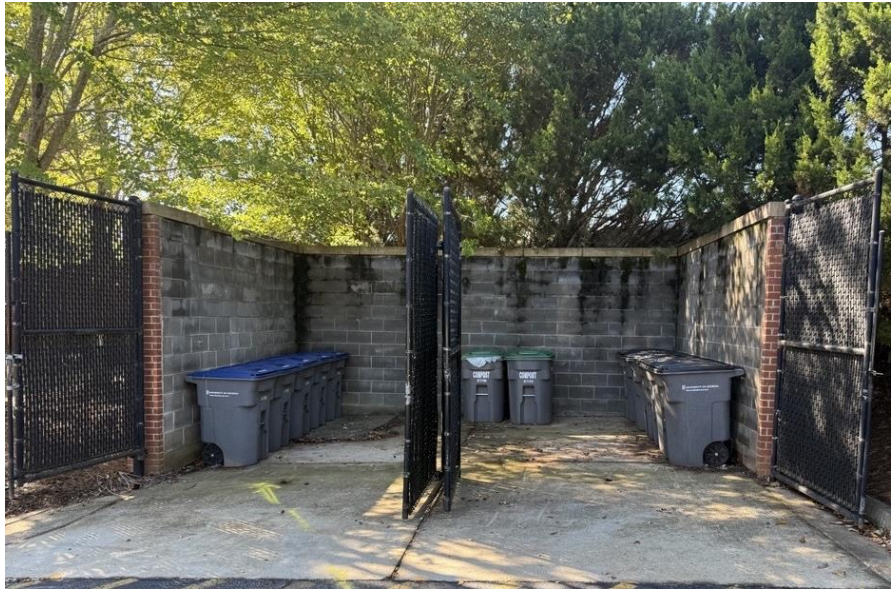
Exterior updates

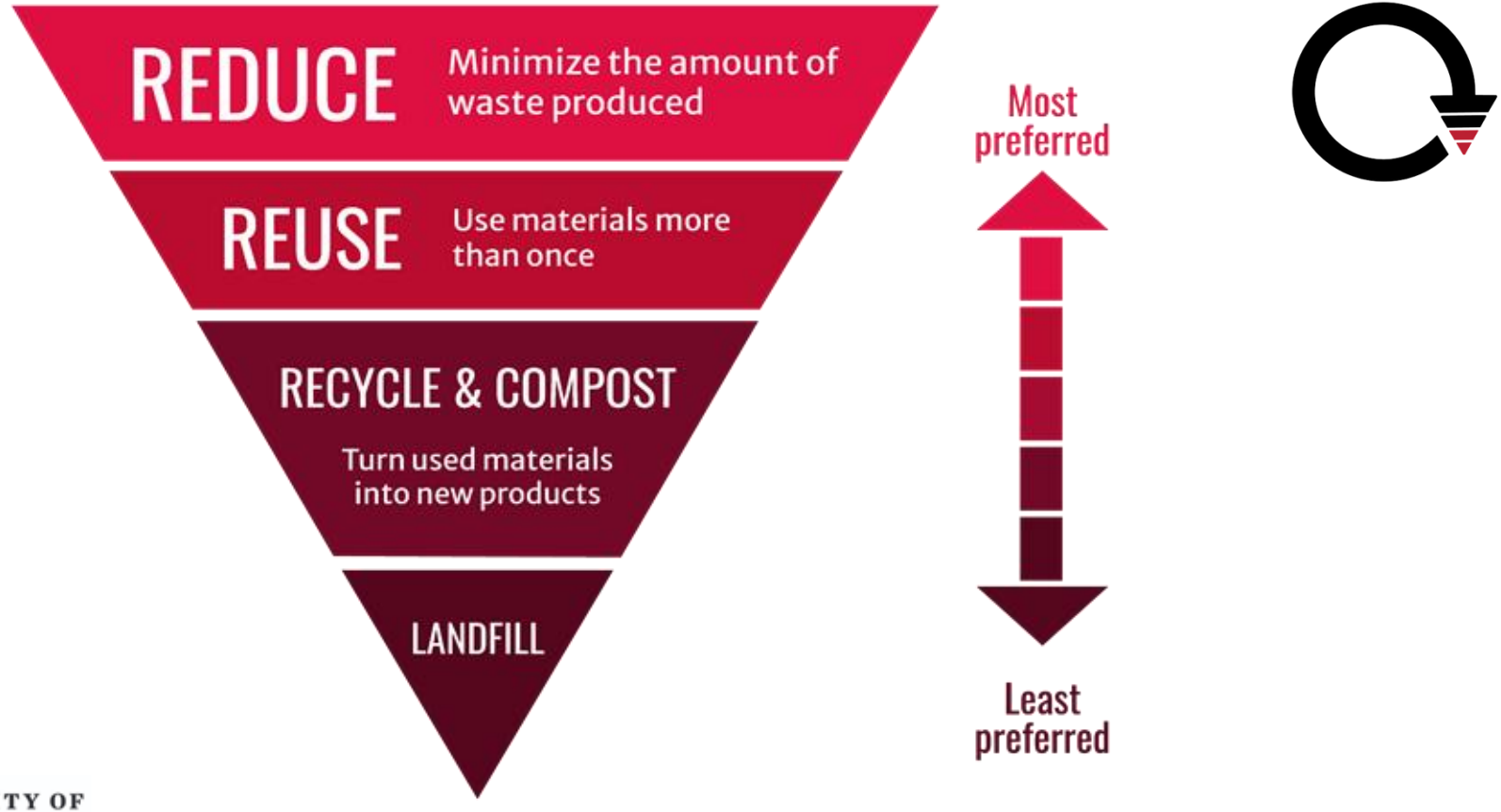
Social Work

Before



After





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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





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Type: Carrots | Date: 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

1000+

Lbs of items swapped this semester



SWAP SHOP AT UGA®

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500+

Water Bottles saved and redistributed in 2025



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Sustainable UGA





When it comes to recycling...

BLUE IS THE NEW GREEN



CAN I RECYCLE THIS?

Find out here!

New Campus Standard





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RESTROOMS





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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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Where does it go from here? (Recycling)

Used Product



Indoor Recycling Bin



Outdoor Bin



ACC Material Recovery Facility





End Market



New Product

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Hard-to-Recycle Items










CHaRM x UGA
Miller Learning Center



ACC CHaRM



END MARKETS!

9,500+

Light Bulbs and Tubes Recycled in 2025

FMD and ESD handle

Universal Waste

such as batteries & bulbs



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17,000+

Lbs of Batteries Recycled in 2025





FMD and ESD handle

Universal Waste

such as batteries & bulbs

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Where does it go from here? (Compost)

Used Product



Indoor Compost Bin



Outdoor Compost Roll Cart



ACC Compost Facility





Fresh Food



Finished Compost

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Where does it go from here? (Landfill)

Used Product



Interior Landfill Bin



Exterior Landfill Roll Cart



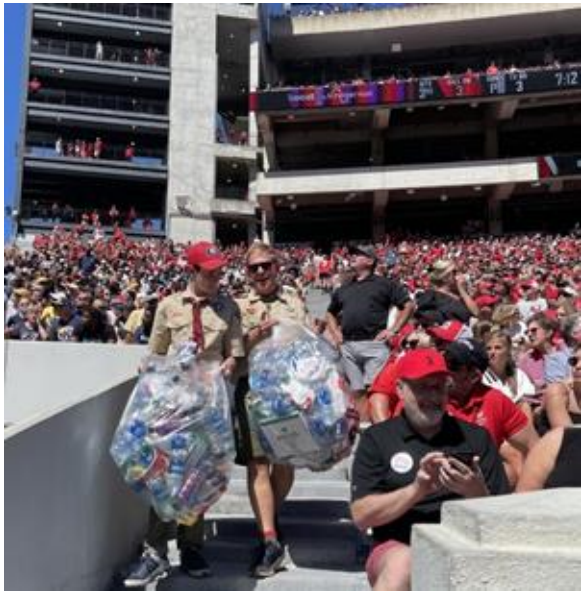
ACC Landfill



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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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RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS
BOTTLES & CANS


RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS
LANDFILL
TRASH


RECYCLE
BOTTLES & CANS
BRUTE


SANFORD
STADIUM







Zero Waste Events

ZWI Roll Out in progress:

Chicopee 1
Delta IHUB
Odum School of Ecology
Terry College BLC
Jackson Street Building
Denmark Hall
Baldwin Hall
Leconte Hall
Peabody Hall
Park Hall
Joe Brown Hall
Gilbert Hall
New College
Caldwell Hall
Admin Building

All of Northeast Campus completed by Fall 2026









Zero Waste Infrastructure

Thank You!



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University of Georgia

Waste Reduction Services

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