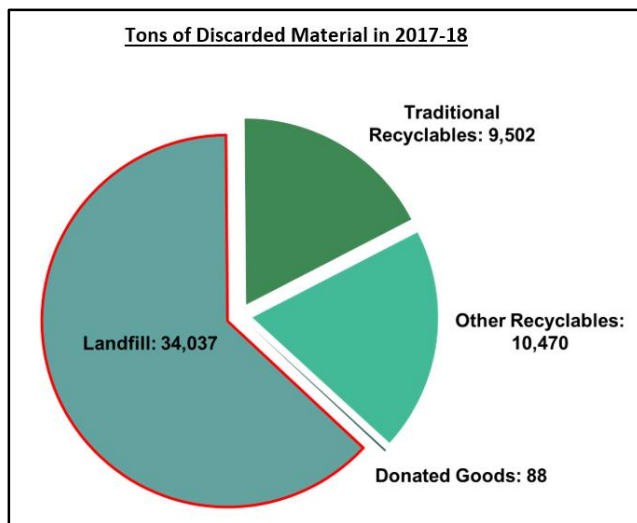


North Carolina Public College Recycling Report 2017-18

This report presents recycling and waste data from public universities and community colleges in North Carolina for the 2017-18 fiscal year. During the past reporting cycle, 49 schools completed a survey administered by the N.C. Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service. The submitted surveys provided data so that DEACS could track the waste and recycling progress in the state.

Data from the 49 reporting schools show that they generated a total of 54,097 tons of discarded material. Of that total, 34,037 (63%) were sent to a landfill for disposal, but 20,060 tons (37%) were recovered for reuse or recycling.



The 20,060 tons of material that schools recovered falls into one of three categories: traditional recyclables, other non-traditional recyclables, and donated material.

Schools reported recycling 9,502 tons of traditional materials such as cans, bottles, paper, and cardboard.

Despite challenging recycling markets and fewer schools responding to the survey, the amount of traditional material recovered increased by 500 tons.

Surveys also showed that colleges and universities recovered 10,470 tons of non-traditional recyclables such as food waste, landscaping debris, textiles, electronics, and construction & demolition material. This amount is a 1,000-ton decrease from the previous fiscal year possibly because of comparatively fewer hurricanes in the fall of 2017 which generate organic debris to be composted.

The last category of recovery, donated material, is the smallest, and the reported tons of donation reflect a decrease over previous years' performance. Schools donated 88 tons of goods which is a decrease of 71 tons since the previous fiscal year.

In compliance with N.C. General Statute 130A-309.14, each school has some type of recycling program implemented to capture traditional recyclables. Still many schools have demonstrated best practices while continually improving upon their diversion:

- 73% of schools have at least some of their on-campus recycling and waste bins twinned (paired together)
- 88% of schools use some type of commingled—single stream or dual stream—method to collect recycling
- 80% of schools use recycling signage, and almost all recycling bins use some type of labeling
- Schools reported composting 3,192 tons of food waste which is 1,000 tons more than the previous year.
- Two universities have on-site, self-managed aerated static piles for composting

NC DEACS recommends that colleges and universities budget to expand their recycling outreach, twin all their public bins, recover non-traditional recyclables, and donate reusable goods.