

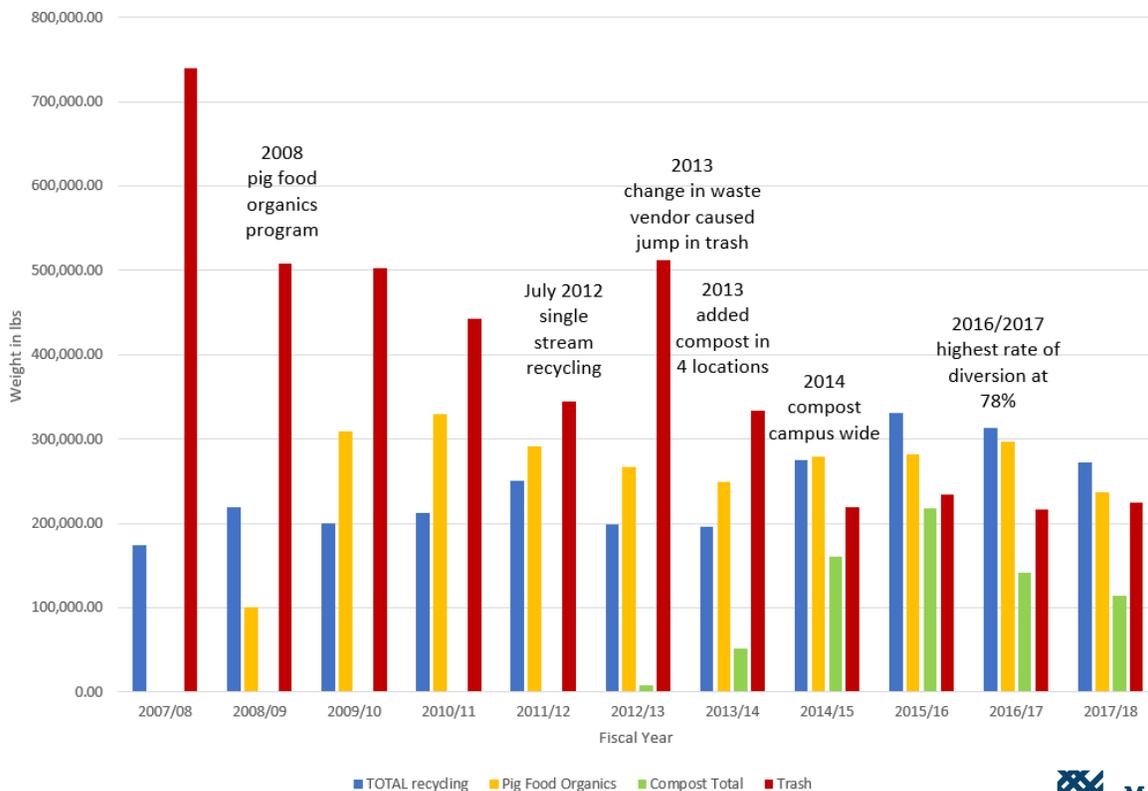
WASTE



Zero Waste

Zero Waste by 2020 is one of Macalester’s six major sustainability goals. Macalester defines zero waste as consistent 90% diversion of total waste from landfill or incinerator, in accordance with the Zero Waste International Alliance. The Sustainability Office measures and tracks data, and promotes practices to reduce waste across campus.

Waste Diversion by Type of Waste



By the Numbers

-  Increased **total waste diversion** from **19% in 2008 to 75% in 2018**.
-  **Pig feed** program **reduced trash by 33%** during its first year.
-  Composting **diverts 77%** of college waste **to recycling or compost**.
-  **Reduction in paper use** per semester from 2015-2019 is approximately **36,000 sheets**.
-  **18 water-filling stations** have replaced the use of almost **1.2 million plastic bottles** since 2010.

Awards

-  **Minnesota Waste Wise - 2009:** Leader Award in recognition of the Mac Free Swap, Food Waste as Pig Food, and Move-out Waste Reduction Program, among other sustainability programs.
-  **Recyclemania - 2015-2019:** National college and university recycling competition - Top 10 in Total Waste Diversion 2015-2019, 1st for Total Waste Diversion, Small Urban Campus - 2019.

Programs

Macalester has a robust infrastructure for waste sorting and disposal. In addition to the commonly recycled materials, we also collect specialty waste like batteries, polystyrene, small electronics, chip bags, and light bulbs. Food waste from our campus cafe goes to a pig farm, while campus-wide commercial composting collects food, paper towels, and tissue.

Other campus programs dedicated to waste reduction include:

-  **Paper Reduction:** Combination of education campaign and printer software that requires print release, sets paper quotas, and tracks student printing.
-  **Dirty Training:** Waste sorting training conducted in residence halls and offered to departments.
-  **Compostable dishware:** Cafe Mac dishware is exclusively either reusable or compostable. Compostable dishware is available at a discount for student and employee campus events.
-  **Mac Free Swap:** Campus community drops unwanted items for others to take - at no cost.
-  **Zero Waste Event Guide:** Facts about eco-friendly practices from area restaurants.
-  **Sustainable Move-Out:** Bulk collection bins outside residence halls during move out for e-waste, unwanted clothing, bedding, etc. Items are donated, recycled, or sold for fundraising.
-  **Plastic bottle ban:** The sale of single-use plastic water bottles was banned on campus in 2010.
-  **Refillable markers:** Non-toxic dry-erase board markers are available across campus.
-  **Onsies:** Notepads from paper printed on only one side that is collected in bins around campus.
-  **Cap and Gown Rental:** Graduation caps and gowns are rented, diverting hundreds from landfill.