Waste Reduction

**GOAL:** REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS 40% BY 2025

**STATUS:** 32% REDUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste (Tons)</th>
<th>FY06</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
<th>FY20</th>
<th>FY21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>13,200</td>
<td>14,080</td>
<td>12,800</td>
<td>12,400</td>
<td>12,800</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>8,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>7,902</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**COVID-19 IMPACT**

Overall waste decreased, as expected. The diversion rate stayed roughly the same despite expectations that the proportion of landfill waste would increase. COVID-related waste was less than expected and those who remained on campus continued to prioritize recycling and composting.

At University of Michigan Health, a trend toward single-use devices due to increased infection concerns has been detrimental to waste reduction goals.

**KEY INITIATIVES**

**Office of Campus Sustainability**
- Launched “Adopt a Compost Bin” pilots to expand public-facing compost bins.
- With Athletics and other campus partners, improved zero waste efforts at football games.
- Implemented measures to reduce contamination at zero waste events.

**University of Michigan Health**
- Won Environmental Excellence Award from Practice Greenhealth (international organization recognized as a leader in health care sustainability).
- Composted more than ever before (124 tons) in first full year of collecting post-consumer compost (leftover food from patient trays).

**NEXT STEPS**

**Office of Campus Sustainability**
- Run a compost awareness campaign to encourage more use of existing infrastructure and decrease contamination.
- Hold focus groups to engage students in fine-tuning compost program.
- Conduct waste sorts for three major building types to inform future priorities.
- Enhance opportunities to reduce waste through purchasing.

**University of Michigan Health**
- Begin a unique medical plastics recycling pilot in FY22 and explore a long-term solution for expansion of medical plastics recycling.
- Pilot reusable sharps containers and transitioning away from foam drinking cups on patient floors.

Questions? Email planetblue@umich.edu | planetblue.umich.edu/campus