



Purdue University Campus Waste Sort



PURDUE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WASTE AUDIT

1.0 Introduction

Natural Resources & Environmental Science (NRES) students at Purdue University are performing a small-scale waste audit of both recycling- and landfill-stream waste by weight at a number of different locations on campus as part of a capstone project. A waste audit involves sorting and analyzing the waste produced within an organization; a major part of this audit will be the collection and sorting of waste into different categories to understand the waste habits of those in the community.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Audit Locations and Size

The buildings chosen to be audited will be divided by purpose, into three categories: Academic Buildings, Academic Buildings with Laboratories, and Residence Halls.

For Academic Buildings, we have selected:

01. Class of 1950 Lecture Hall (CL50)
02. Mathematical Sciences Building (MATH)
03. Wilmeth Active Learning Center (WALC)

Academic Buildings with Laboratories:

04. Data Science and AI (DSAI)
05. Chaney-Hale Hall of Science (CHAS)

Residence Halls:

06. Earhart Hall (ERHT)
07. Shreve Residence Hall (SHRV)

From each of these seven buildings, we plan to sort approximately twenty pounds (20 lb) of waste. This 20 lb will be further divided into 10 lb from recycling-stream waste and 10 lb from landfill-stream waste. The goal is for a total of approximately 140 lb of waste to be sorted.

For Academic Buildings and those with Laboratories, we will be collecting waste from classrooms and public hallways exclusively. Bathrooms and laboratories will be avoided for the health and safety of students involved. For Residence Halls, we will be collecting waste from public lobby spaces and potentially* floor trash rooms, this detail is subject to change depending on access. Bathrooms will be avoided for health and safety.



A concise summary can be found below.

Location Abbreviation	Location Type	Landfill-Stream Weight (lb)	Recycling-Stream Weight (lb)	Total Weight (lb)	Collecting Waste From:	Proposed Dates
CL50	ACADEMIC	10	10	20	Classrooms and public hallways	March 29
MATH	ACADEMIC	10	10	20	Classrooms and public hallways	March 29
WALC	ACADEMIC	10	10	20	Classrooms and public hallways	March 29
DSAI	LAB	10	10	20	Classrooms and public hallways	April 5
CHAS	LAB	10	10	20	Classrooms and public hallways	April 5
ERHT	RES HALL	10	10	20	Public lobby spaces and *floor trash rooms	April 12
SHRV	RES HALL	10	10	20	Public lobby spaces and *floor trash rooms	April 12
Weight Totals		70	70	140		



2.2 Timeframe

The timeframe of this waste audit is flexible and dependent on the collaboration and availability of many different parties. It is our hope that we will be able to divide the actual sorting into three Saturdays, listed above.

2.3 Health & Safety

The health and safety of those participating is essential, so we have created an in-detail health and safety plan that includes understanding our PPE choices, training, emergency protocols, and more.

3.0 Contact

This project is being conducted for the NRES 497 course, Current Topics in Environmental Science, a capstone class for NRES students at Purdue. Below, you will find the contact information for the students working on this project, our community partners at Purdue's AO Sustainability Department, Environmental Health & Safety at Purdue, as well as our NRES 497 Instructor and Co-Instructor. If you should have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to any of the following.

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