

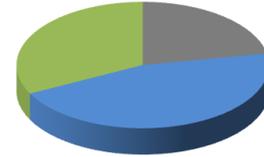
Seattle Business Waste Assessment

Introduction

What can your dumpster do for you?

Find out today! You may be able to reduce waste and increase recycling at your business, helping you to:

- Save money
- Contribute to a healthy community and environment
- Keep valuable resources out of landfills
- Appeal to environmentally-friendly customers
- Comply with regulations



This DIY Waste Assessment Tool is intended to help your business more easily understand your waste reduction and recycling opportunities.

Follow these 4 simple steps:

<u>1. PLAN AHEAD</u>	<u>2. GATHER DATA</u>	<u>3. ANALYZE RESULTS</u>
Supplies and information you'll need to conduct a waste assessment	Observations about your current trash and recycling activities	Report summarizing recycling potential and environmental benefits
<u>4. THEN...TAKE ACTION!</u>		



This Assessment Tool was developed for Seattle Public Utilities Resource Venture Program in 2012 by Cascadia Consulting Group.



Seattle Business Waste Assessment

1. Plan Ahead

A. Before you dive in...

Make sure you have all the information and supplies you need to make this waste assessment worth it.

- Designate one or a few staff members to conduct the assessment.
- Determine current dumpster size, pickup frequency, and monthly cost for garbage and recycling services.
- Gather all necessary supplies for conducting a waste assessment (see checklist below in part C).
- Schedule a date and time to carry out the waste assessment. Preferably right before the hauler pickup time.

B. Enter basic information

If you do not know this information, contact your property manager or waste hauler to obtain it (See Get Started section of the ['Take Action'](#) sheet, or go and look at your dumpsters.)

Instructions: Select the recycling materials you currently collect below. For example, you may collect cardboard, glass, or paper separate from other materials. If you collect all materials together, choose "Mixed Recycling."

For each recycling material, enter info in yellow cells

If you have a compactor for your waste and/or recycling instead of a regular dumpster, select the **Compactor?** checkbox. Also note how **Full** your bins usually are, just before they are picked up.

Material Stream	Containers			# of containers	# pickups per week	Monthly cost	How full are bins at pickup?			
	Size	Units	Compactor?				50% or less	75%	Full	Overflow
Trash	3	cubic yd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	3	\$250.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed Recycling	96	gal	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	\$50.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cardboard	3	cubic yd	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	\$50.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Yard & Food	96	gal	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	\$50.00	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total Monthly Cost						\$400.00				

C. Obtain supplies

For this waste assessment, we recommend you observe samples taken directly from your trash, recycling, and compost dumpsters. This will require a few essential items:

SUPPLIES

- ✓ puncture-proof gloves
- ✓ box cutter
- ✓ tape measure
- ✓ eye protection
- ✓ first aid kit
- ✓ camera

DATA TOOLS

- ✓ blank form (print Step 2.)
- ✓ clipboard
- ✓ pencil/pen
- ✓ calculator



Seattle Business Waste Assessment

2. Gather Data/Conduct Assessment

A. Print form or use a tablet computer to enter information directly.

Business Name	Print this Biz
Date	5/15/2012
Notes	w000t



B. Estimate the percentages of each material found in your trash, recycling, and compost bins.

Material Categories	Trash	Mixed Recycling	Cardboard	Yard & Food
Cardboard			90%	
Office paper		90%		
Mixed paper				
Compostable paper	10%			
Other non-recoverable paper				
Plastic containers	10%	5%		
Plastic bags/wrap				10%
Compostable plastic				
Other non-recoverable plastic				
Metal containers	5%			
Recyclable metal				
Other non-recoverable metal				
Glass containers				
Other non-recoverable glass				
Food scraps	10%			35%
Plant trimmings				55%
Electronics				
Clean wood				
Misc. construction (non-recoverable)				
Other non-recoverable materials	65%	5%	10%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%



Seattle Business Waste Assessment

Results for:

Print this Biz

Date of Assessment: 5/15/2012

Current Service Levels

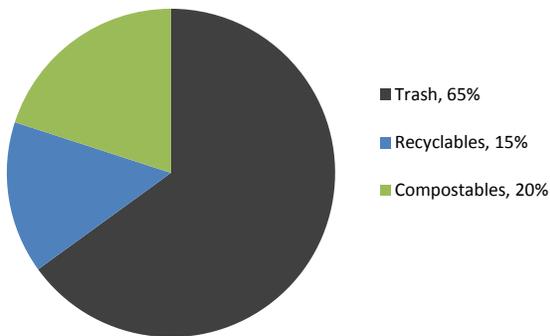
	Bin Size	Compacted?	# Bins	Pickups per week	Monthly cost
Trash	3 cubic yd	Y	1	3	\$250
Mixed Recycling	96 gal	N	1	1	\$50
Cardboard	3 cubic yd	N	1	1	\$50
Yard & Food	96 gal	N	1	1	\$50

Total Monthly Cost \$400

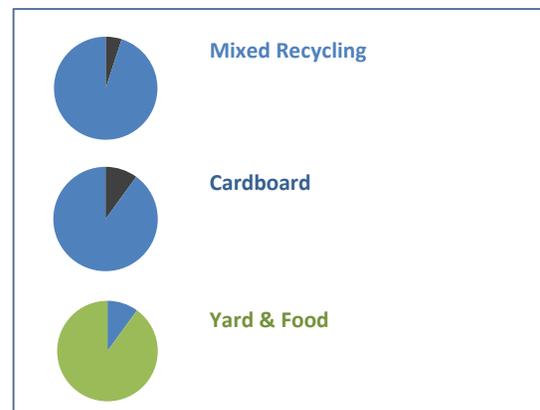
Current
Recycling Rate:

18%

Trash Bin Contents



Other bin contents



Audit Notes

w000t

Recycling Potential

If you diverted all recyclables in your trash, you could:

- reduce trash service by **2** cubic yards per week
- divert **5** tons of recyclable material from the landfill annually
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **23** mtCO₂e per year

Potential
Recycling Rate:

40%

If you diverted all compostables in your trash, you could:

- reduce trash service by **3** cubic yards per week
- divert **28** tons of compostable material from the landfill
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **10** mtCO₂e per year

Greenhouse gas and tonnage estimates are based on your waste assessment and environmental standards published by the EPA. See [the 'Background Data' sheet](#) for more information.



Take Action!



Seattle Business Waste Assessment

Resources

Get Started:

[Who Is Your Waste Hauling Company?](#)

[Seattle Business Recycling and Composting 101](#)

Find A Recycler:

[Visit the Resource Venture Recycler Database](#)

Request Free Posters And Bin Labels:

[Complete Our Online Request Form](#)

Read Up on Recycling Regulations:

[Mandatory Recycling Requirements for Seattle Businesses](#)

[Seattle's New Food Packaging Requirements](#)

[Seattle's C&D Recycling Requirements](#)

Share Your Success:

[Get on the Map!](#)



This Assessment Tool was developed for Seattle Public Utilities Resource Venture Program in 2012 by Cascadia Consulting Group.

