

TIME FOR RECYCLEMANIA!

If you haven't already been working to reduce waste in your building, now is a great time!

In February, Office of Sustainability and Stanford Recycling/Peninsula Sanitary Services Inc. (PSSI) kick off the annual [RecycleMania competition](#), where 450 colleges and universities across the country compete to see who can reduce waste, recycle and compost the most. Not only is the competition a crucial marker of our progress on a national level, but it represents an opportunity to advance toward the state-wide goal of 75% waste diversion by 2020.

Stanford's diversion rate has hovered around 65% for a few years, and your participation in waste reduction will be critical to achieve the remaining 10% needed to meet the target. One way that we can get there is by composting. According to waste audits, food waste and other organics make up the largest portion of Stanford's landfill dumpsters. At a staggering 31%, organics presently make up more than the amount of actual trash collected in landfill bins. We can do better.

There are multiple benefits to composting other than improving the diversion rate. Composted items make nutrient-rich soil, and by keeping food waste out of the landfill, we reduce methane - a potent greenhouse gas. Not to mention, participation in waste reduction and RecycleMania efforts will also increase your [building sustainability rating](#).

Here is how you can help:

- Please join the **customer-funded composting program**, which allows buildings or departments to fund compost collection in main kitchens or central points on the floor for a small fee, depending on the service requirements. Buildings that sign up for the program can *save more than 7.5 tons of waste from the landfill each year*, significantly improving our efforts to meet the state target.
- If you can't commit to customer-funded composting just yet, encourage your building occupants to participate in the **voluntary composting program**, through which they can receive a personal bin to take to the central composting corrals located across campus. This program is key to help educate our community to the composting infrastructure available to them, supported by the recent installation of composting bins at cafes across campus, as well as in athletics facilities and stadiums.
 - In addition to these targeted composting opportunities, efforts such as the **desk-side recycling program**, which targets paper collection and landfill reduction in office spaces, have been instrumental in getting us to where we are today. Contact PSSI to request more information if you don't already have this program in your building.



You can sign up for these programs directly when you pledge your support to help us divert waste and win Recyclemania. If you

would like materials to promote the opportunities to your building occupants email

becardinalgreen@stanford.edu **It will take 100% participation to achieve the 10% improvement in waste diversion.**

[More Recycling and Composting Resources:](#)

[Ordering Trash, Recycling, and Compost bins for Your Event](#)

[How to Order Compostable Serviceware](#)