If You Build It, Will They Sort It?

Composting in the Academic Library Learning Commons

Photo: "The Sky's the Limit at the Valley Library" by Valley Library (Oregon State University) licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Uta Hussong-Christian

Oregon State University Libraries & Press

Academic Librarian 4 | Hong Kong | June 2, 2016

Oregon State UNIVERSITY

Economy | Environment | Justice

World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

"Seedling" by USDAgov licensed under CC BY 2.0

Unsustainable

"Loading Dock Trash" by Faye Chadwell / OSULP

Campus Waste Diversion

“Campus Recycling” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

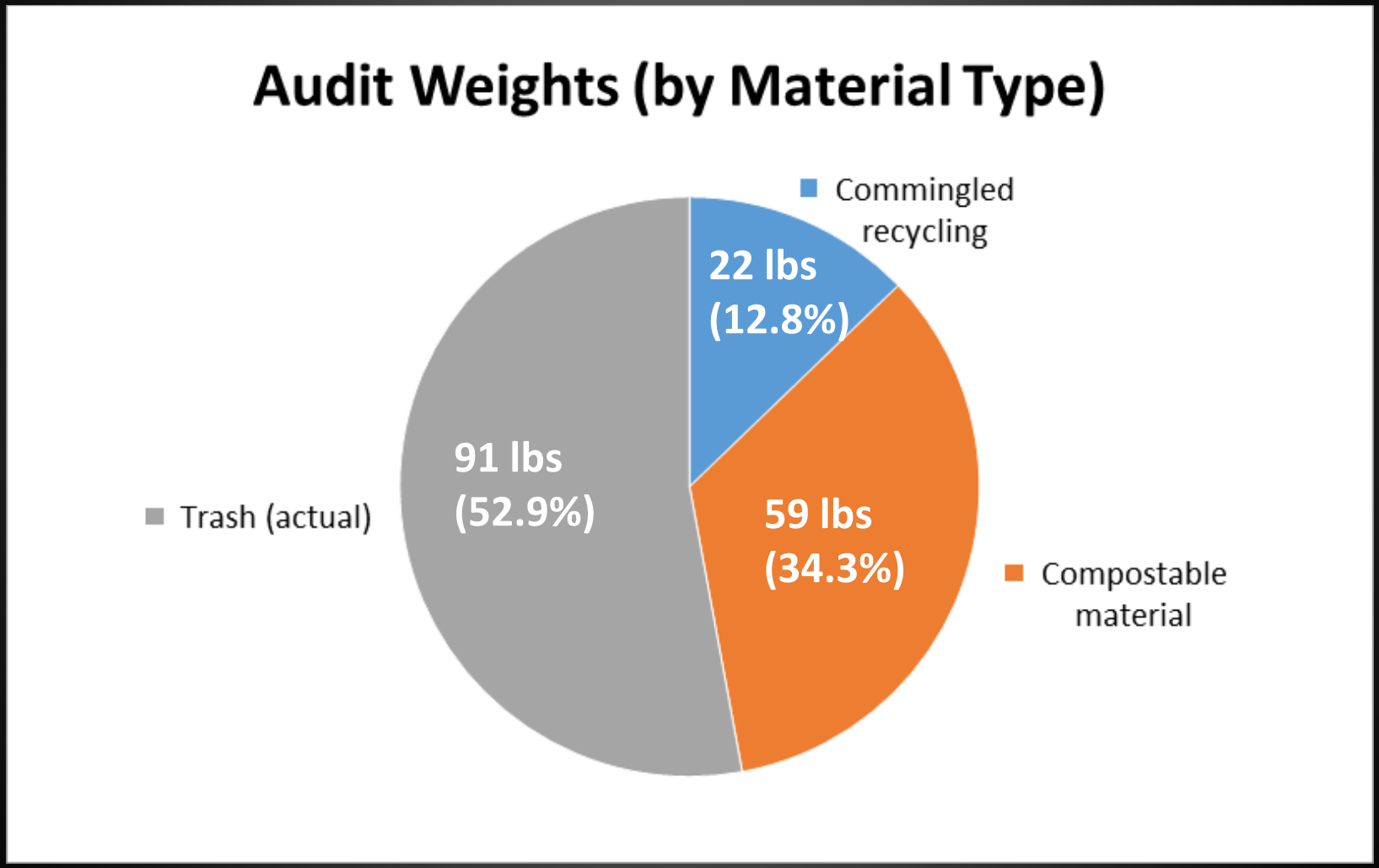
Got Compostables?

"Pizza Boxes" by Kristin Swetland / OSULP

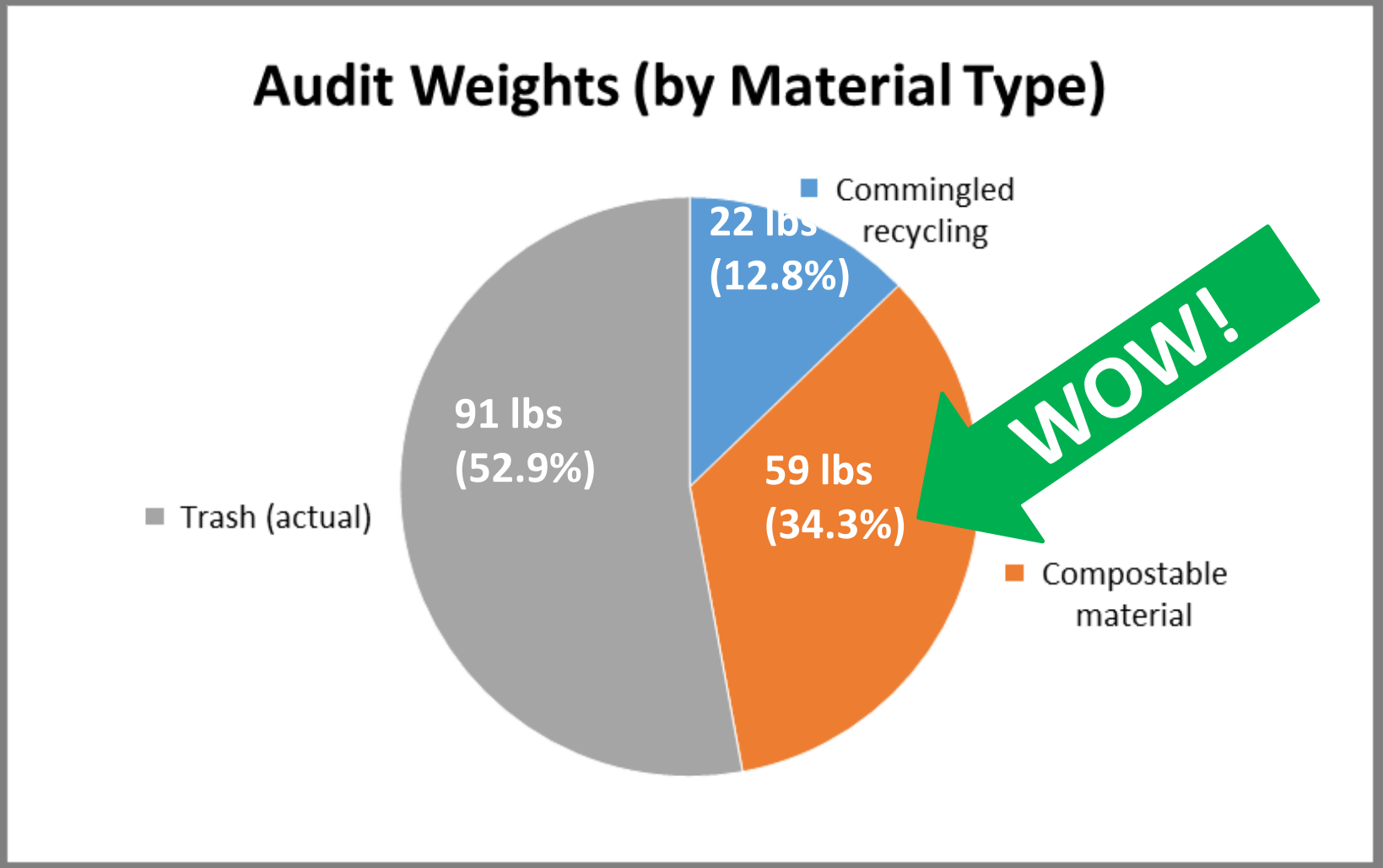
Waste Audit | Collect, Sort, Measure

"Waste Audit, Dec 2015" by Beth Filar Williams / OSULP

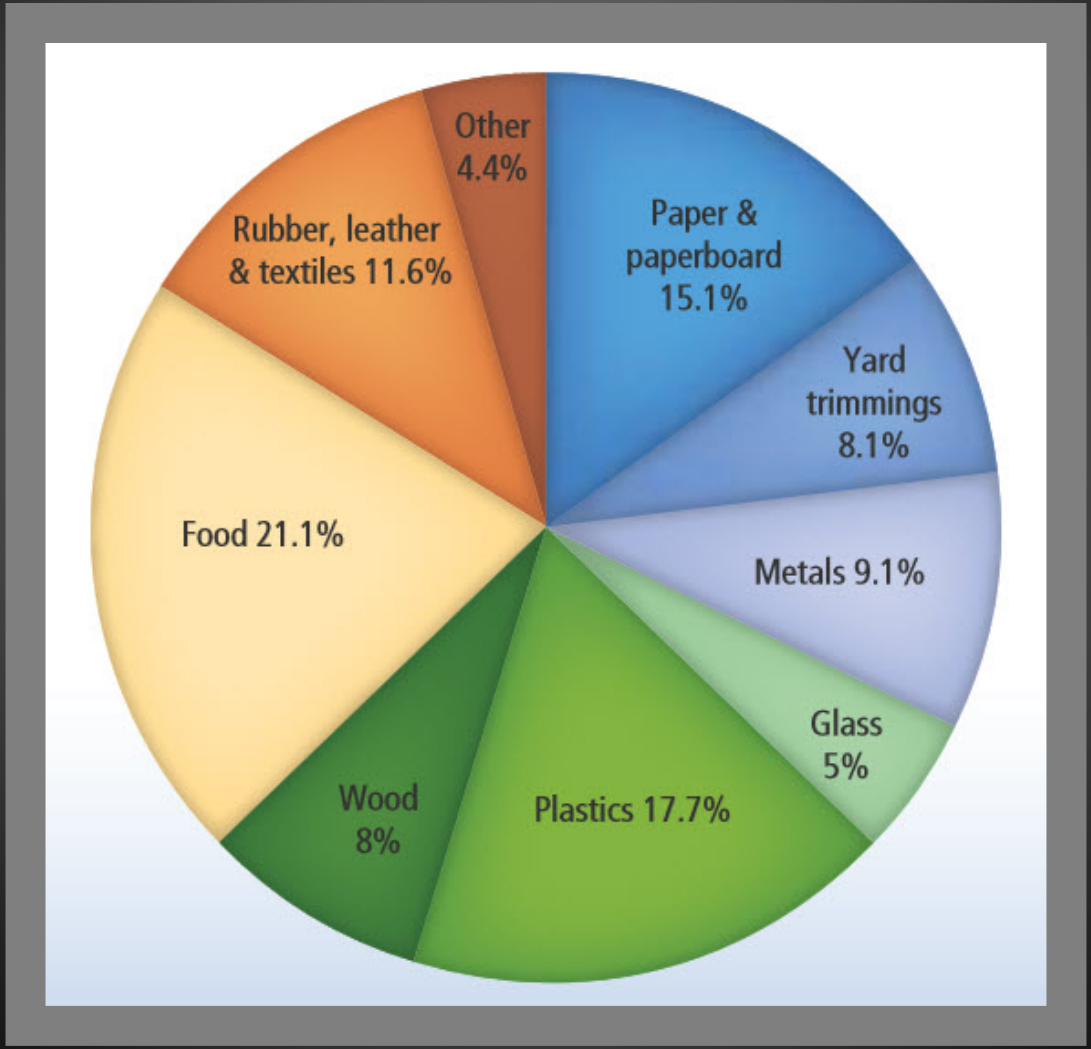
The Numbers


Audit Weights (by Material Type)
Commingled recycling
22 lbs (12.8%)
91 lbs (52.9%)
59 lbs (34.3%)
Trash (actual)
Compostable material

The Numbers


Audit Weights (by Material Type)
Commingled recycling
22 lbs (12.8%)
WOW!
91 lbs (52.9%)
59 lbs (34.3%)
Trash (actual)
Compostable material

US MSW Discards AFTER Recycling/Composting, 2013



"Total MSW Discards" by US EPA

Less Unsustainable

"Loading Dock Trash" by Faye Chadwell / OSULP

Dining Hall Composting

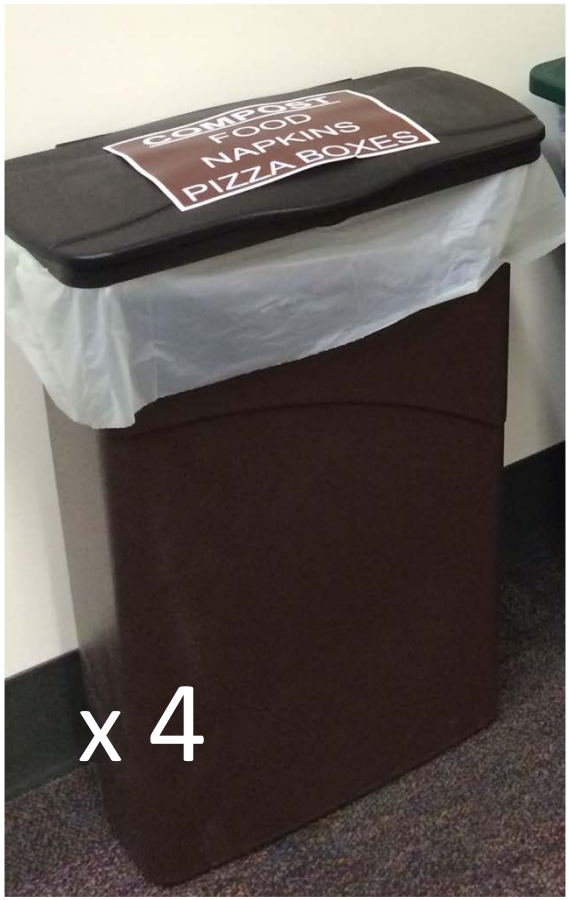
“Dining Hall Composting” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Preparations

"Ingredients" by schub@ licensed under CC BY-NC-SA

People

“Small Trash Bin” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP



“Valley Compost Bins (cropped)” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Materials

- BPI certification for liner bag required
- Approval needed to purchase “custodial supplies”

“33-gal Natur-Bag” by Plastic Bag Partners
“BPI Logo” by Biodegradable Products Institute

Signage

COMPOST
All food scraps
Napkins & paper towels
100% Paper plates
Pizza boxes
Coffee & tea bags
NO:
Plastic Bags
Plastic Utensils
Plastic Containers
Metal
Regular Paper
Free Liquids
OSU Libraries & Press
valley.reference@oregonstate.edu
541.737.7293
Composting is Orange.
Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

COMPOST
AT THE VALLEY LIBRARY
Did you know? Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions, reduces landfill use, and creates a cleaner and healthier environment for Beaver Nation.
YES
"Compostable" Servingware
Napkins & Paper Towels
100% Paper Plates
Coffee & Tea Bags
All Food Scraps
Pizza Boxes
Composting is Orange.
Oregon State
UNIVERSITY

Valley Composting

“Valley Compost Bins” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Successful? Absolutely!

Challenges? Plenty!

Successes

- Library patrons found the bins the first day
- Expanded from 1 bin location to 4 bin locations around Learning Commons
- Patrons thanked us for having compost bins

Contamination

“Compost Bin Lid” by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Signage

"Valley Compost Bins" by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Pests

"Fruit Flies" by Uta Hussong-Christian / OSULP

Natural Effective (!) Remedy

Apple cider vinegar

+

1-2 drops dish soap

+

Film “lid” with holes

=

24-36 hour miracle

“Fruit Fly Trap” by Uta Hussong-Christian

Campus Leaders

"Faye Chadwell" by Andrea Norris / OSU Recycling

Parting Words

Programs such as these provide a means for sustainability to *"become firmly established within the existing value structure of societies while simultaneously helping that value structure evolve toward a more viable long-term approach to system global problems."*

Edwards, "*The Sustainability Revolution*"

Questions?

uta.hussong-christian@oregonstate.edu

References

Edwards, A. R. (2005), *The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift,* New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, Canada

United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2015), "Advancing sustainable materials management: 2013 fact sheet", available at: http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/2013_advncng_smm_fs.pdf (accessed 4 January 2016)

World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987), "Our common future", available at: http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf (accessed 14 April 2016)