



Berkeley Climate Action Plan: Tracking our Progress Waste Reduction & Recycling – Total Landfilled



Performance metric: Annual waste disposal in Berkeley

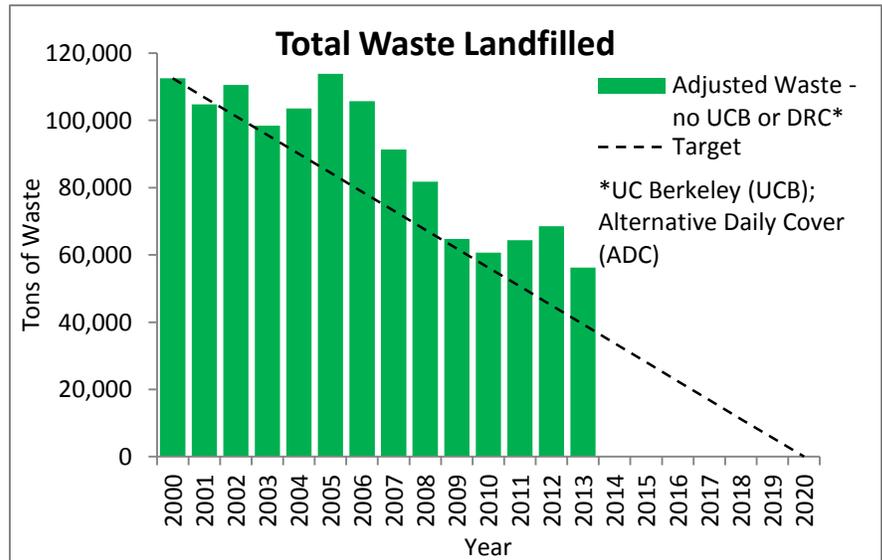
Target: Meet Berkeley's Zero Waste goal by eliminating materials sent to landfills by the year 2020.

Zero Waste means that all discarded material is recycled, composted, or reused. None is sent to the landfill.

Status: Since 2000, the amount of solid waste sent to landfills from the Berkeley community dropped by approximately 50%, from 112,498 tons in 2000 to 56,189 tons in 2013. Solid waste disposal decreased 18% between 2012 and 2013.

The community-wide reduction in waste disposal since 2000 translates into a reduction in per capita waste disposal from 6.4 to 2.9 lbs/person/day.

The total amount of waste disposed from Berkeley sources represents about 5.7% of the county-wide waste stream. The single largest source of waste originating in Berkeley is food waste, which represents about 14% of Berkeley's total waste sent to the landfill. Greenhouse gas emissions from Berkeley landfill waste disposal decreased 59% since 2000.



Why is this metric important?

Achieving zero waste is an essential component of reducing global warming emissions. Monitoring and reporting this metric helps the community to gauge the efficacy of services designed to reduce waste disposal and to track annual progress toward our Zero Waste goal.

Resources and assistance for community members

The City of Berkeley's [Zero Waste Division website](#) provides information on the refuse and recycling services offered by the City.

CalRecycle (www.calrecycle.ca.gov), the State's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, provides a variety of data on waste disposal and recycling within California and information on waste reduction.

Data sources and technical notes

The total tons of solid waste disposed are provided by [CalRecycle](#). For cities within Alameda County, CalRecycle gets these data from StopWaste.org. StopWaste.org obtains these data through reports from each facility within Alameda County that receives solid waste, including the Berkeley Transfer Station. Berkeley's food waste data is from the 2008 Alameda County Waste Characterization Study from StopWaste.org. The waste disposal totals do not include "Alternative Daily Cover" (ADC). ADC is placed on the surface of the landfill at the end of each operating day to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging.

The population data used by CalRecycle to calculate per capita waste disposal are provided by the California Department of Finance. Waste disposal per capita per day in Berkeley is calculated by dividing the total tons of solid waste disposed from Berkeley sources per day (including residential, commercial, and industrial waste and commercial & demolition debris) by Berkeley's total population.

Tracking our progress: Review Climate Action Plan performance metrics at www.cityofberkeley.info/climate