

# Garbage on the Green

Annual Report 2015

Prepared by The UNF Environmental Center  
Jacksonville, FL / October 2015





# What is Garbage on the Green?



Garbage on the Green (GoG) is a waste-auditing program developed by the UNF Environmental Center in 2007 with support from Physical Facilities. The audit was designed to gain a better understanding of UNF's solid waste stream and to improve the University's overall diversion rate. The program corresponds with UNF's plan to reduce its overall environmental impact. It includes a morning litter cleanup and an afternoon waste audit. This year's event partnered with UNF Volunteer Services and was held in conjunction with the Volunteer Fair.

The program is aimed at helping UNF achieve Florida's goal that 75 percent of its waste will be recycled by 2020. The program continues to grow each year and brings focus to our society's need to use natural resources more wisely. GoG shows students the vital connection between material use, energy consumption and its impact on the environment and is important toward our goal of graduating a generation of environmentally literate leaders.



# Campus Impact

241.56 kg (532.55 lbs) of waste was collected from five different areas around campus.

118 students volunteered for a total of 144.5 hours to sort and audit the waste.

9.46 kg (20.85 lbs) of litter was collected at the morning cleanup.

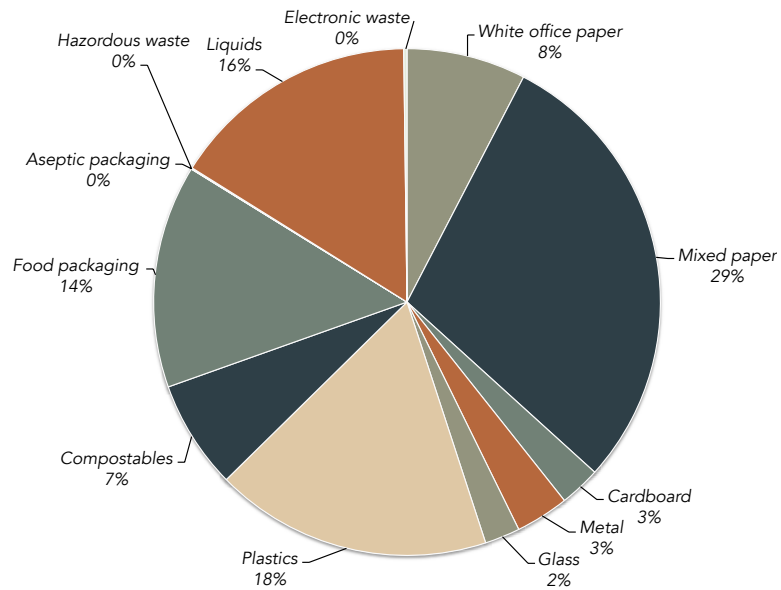
The Volunteer Fair included 37 organizations.

104 students completely filled out their passports at the Volunteer Fair by visiting at least five exhibitors.

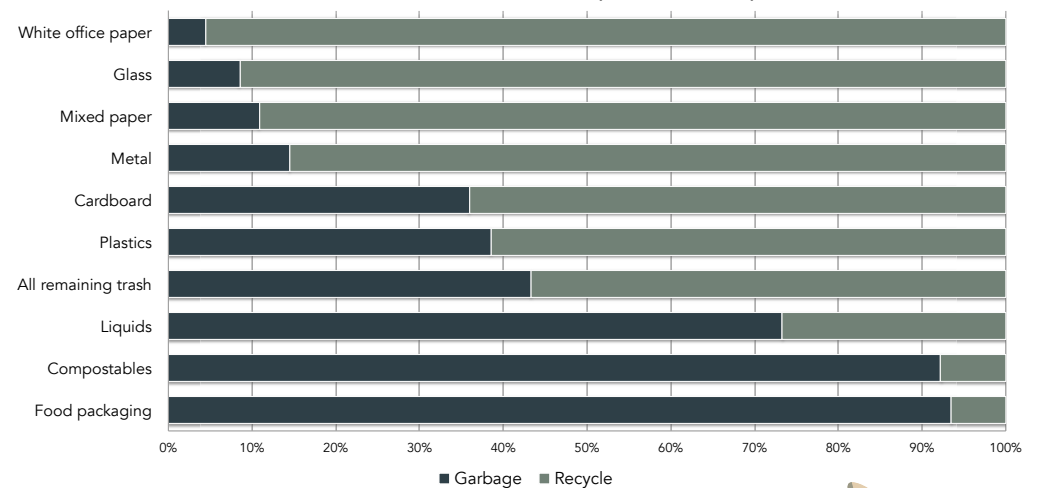


# Audit Results

Post Sort Material by Category



Presort Material Type by Receptacle



The information from the data sheets filled out by volunteers was compiled and analyzed. The pie chart above depicts the categories of materials found in the waste stream of the locations analyzed in the study. The bar graph shows what percentage of each material was deposited in recycling receptacles versus garbage receptacles.





# Results *by Location*



The figures above show post-sort audit results; the data represent the composition of the actual waste stream of campus as opposed to the actual diversion rate. The audit analyzed waste from four areas on campus: the Student Union Courtyard (1), the Coggin College of Business (2), Alumni Square (3), and the Social Sciences Building (4). By separating the waste by building, the data obtained provide insight into how the area is being used and the differences in locational consumption behaviors of users. The locations were grouped into two categories for further analysis: "common areas" consisting of the Student Union Courtyard and Alumni Square, and "academic buildings" consisting of the Coggin College of Business and the Social Sciences Building.



# Discussion & Results



## Recommendations for campus sustainability:

1. **Improve current recycling behavior:** Currently 61.2 percent of materials being disposed of on campus can be recycled. If all of this material were disposed of accordingly, the University will reach the 60 percent benchmark for 2016 established as a milestone of the 75 percent goal for 2020. Recycling education and improved/updated signage should be considered.
2. **Include composting in the University's waste disposal methods:** The addition of a composting program would further increase the amount of materials diverted from the landfill. A composting program for the University would reduce 7.5 percent of landfilled waste to help reach the goal of a 75 percent recycling rate.
3. **Reduce paper use:** At 37 percent of the total waste stream, mixed paper and white office paper are a significant source of campus waste. Reducing paper use, then, should be a focus of efforts to increase campus sustainability.
4. **Donate food:** Though not analyzed in this study, a major source of divertable waste on campus is food. While composting would alleviate the amount of food scraps, another program aimed at donating acceptable food to appropriate entities is needed.
5. **Track overall campus waste data:** Garbage on the Green, though rich in information, only provides a 24-hour snapshot of waste disposal. Comparisons with past analyses show improvements in the diversion rate, but to adequately gauge the University's waste stream and



# Thank you to our *sponsors!*



Garbage on the Green is conducted annually by the University of North Florida Environmental Center. Please visit [unf.edu/ecenter](http://unf.edu/ecenter) for the Garbage on the Green Formal Report and to learn more about the event.

The Environmental Center would like to extend their thanks to the community partners that made the event a success:

- Berry Good Farms
- UNF Bookstore
- UNF Volunteer Services
- Pepsi
- Healthy Osprey
- UNF Physical Facilities

Graphs, research, information, copy, and design created and provided by the following Environmental Center staff:

- Caitlin Kengle, Project Leader
- Tiffany Torres, Student Assistant
- James W. Taylor, Coordinator

