

How to Calculate Your Waste Diversion Rate

What is a waste diversion rate?

Your waste diversion rate is the percentage of waste you divert from disposal at landfills. Waste diversion is a common way to measure the performance of a business's reuse, recycling, and composting programs. A 100% waste diversion rate is considered 'zero waste to landfill.'

The Colorado Green Business Program uses waste diversion rates to help score business for recognition in the Environmental Leadership Program.

CALCULATING YOUR DIVERSION RATE

You'll need to know the weight of the all the waste generated by your business, and the weight of waste diverted from the landfill. Once you've determined these totals, calculating your diversion rate is simple:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Weight of diverted waste}}{\text{Weight of all waste}} \right) \times 100 = \text{Diversion Rate}$$

If your wastes are managed by waste haulers separately for you, you can often use invoices or hauling records to generate your totals. In scenarios where you share waste services with neighboring businesses, or if you self-transport waste to drop-off sites, you can measure totals yourself through a waste audit.

Waste audits are a powerful tool to develop a thorough understanding of waste management practices.

Definitions

Diverted waste: The wastes, materials, and even used goods that you donate, resell, recycle, and compost. Include organics, common recyclables, and e-waste and office furniture.

All waste: Diverted wastes and wastes thrown in the garbage that go to a landfill or incinerators.

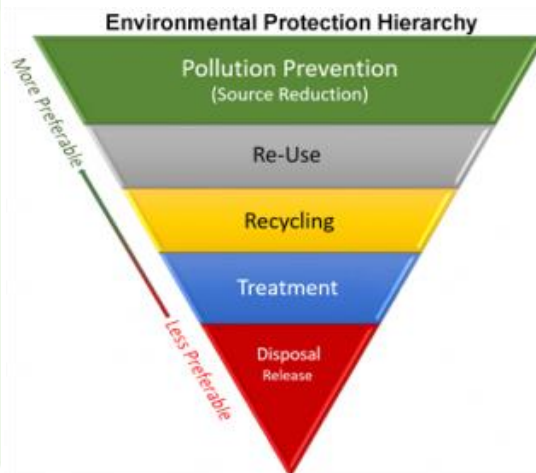
For Green Business Network reporting, do not include construction and demolition waste, emissions to air, releases to waters, and discharges to the sewer in your overall totals, these materials will be captured separately.



Free, On-Site Assistance

We provide on-site sustainability assessments that help businesses identify next steps!

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Resource: [Conducting a Waste Assessment and Waste Sort Checklists](#)

DIVERSION VS REDUCTION

While waste diversion is better than disposal, not generating the waste in the first place is even better. "Source reduction" provides the greatest benefits to your business in terms of financial impacts, and the greatest impacts to the environment. For more information on how to reduce waste at your business, please contact us!