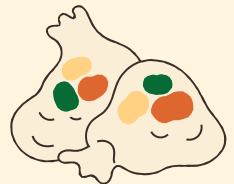


Fairbanks Community Waste Audit



Hey Fairbanks! Did you know that the average American produces about 4.9 pounds of waste per day? (EPA) The average Fairbanksian produces even more! In Fiscal Year 2022, Fairbanks produced an average of 6.02 pounds of waste per person each day. We have a challenge for you! Take a look at what your 6 pounds are made of. Lots of our everyday waste can be diverted from the landfill or avoided completely. The Community Waste Audit challenges you to see how much you really throw away and how you can do better! All you need is a full bag of your household's garbage and maybe some gloves. You'll empty the bag and separate it into 5 categories: items you can reuse, items you can donate, items you can recycle, items you can compost, and items that must go to the landfill (hopefully not much). You'll fill out this worksheet reflecting on what you've found and coming up with ideas about how to reduce the waste your household produces. We'll even tell you where to take it when you're done!



Instructions



Complete this worksheet. Separate your waste into the five groups listed on the next page. Take notes of what you find and brainstorm ways you could reduce waste in each area. Once it's split up, take your waste to the appropriate disposal site. Reflect on what you've found and share some ideas on the last page. Once it's completed you can submit an electronic version to @compostfbx on Facebook or Instagram, email it to compostfbx@gmail.com, or drop off a paper copy to the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District office (590 University Ave. Suite 2 Fairbanks, AK). For every worksheet submitted we will donate one food item to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and you'll be entered to win a prize basket with gifts from Compost FBX and our partners. All sheets due by Sep 1

How to Sort Your Trash

Dump out a full bag of your household trash and separate the contents into these categories. Pay special attention to items you find multiple times. Be thinking about ways you can avoid or reduce these items.



Reuse

What items could you creatively use for something else rather than throw away? Maybe a glass jar or bottle could be used as a cup, storage, or a vase.

Donate

Think twice before putting an item in the trash if someone else could use it!

Recycle

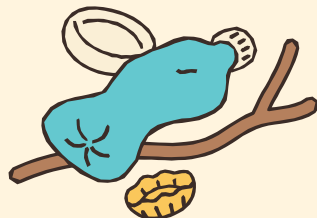
Segregate anything recyclable. In Fairbanks that includes paper, cardboard, some plastic, aluminum cans, and household electronics.

Compost

Gather your organic waste (fruit and vegetable scraps, yard waste, leaves, paper, and cardboard) for the compost pile.

Landfill

Throw trash in a landfill only if you still have trash that doesn't fit into the previous four categories.



What'd you find?

Make a list of what you found in each category. Use this list to consider how you could reduce or avoid these waste items in the future and make notes of your ideas. Take a look at where you can properly dispose of these items.

Reuse

Ex. Old clothes that aren't in good enough shape to donate could be used as rags, made into garden grow bags, or weed cloth for gardens.

Donate

Ex. A sweater that I don't wear anymore but is still in good condition

Donate

There are many places to take gently used items in Fairbanks. Gently used items that you no longer need can be used by others. One man's trash is another man's treasure. Even something with lots of wear and tear can be placed in the reuse section of the transfer site for someone else to fix up. Consider even listing it as "free" on Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace.

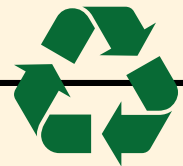


What'd you find?

Make a list of what you found in each category. Use this list to consider how you could reduce or avoid these waste items in the future and make notes of your ideas. Take a look at where you can properly dispose of these items.

Recycle

Ex. Plastic water bottle -- could be avoided by using a reusable water bottle



Recycle

Fairbanks accepts lots of items for recycling at various locations. The Central Recycling Facility accepts some plastics, cardboard, paper, and aluminum as well as electronics. Beyond that local businesses recycle batteries (Batteries Plus) and grocery bags (Fred Meyer's and Safeway). Check out Green Star's Interactive Recycling Map for a comprehensive guide of every item that can be recycled in Fairbanks and where they go.

What'd you find?

Make a list of what you found in each category. Use this list to consider how you could reduce or avoid these waste items in the future and make notes of your ideas. Take a look at where you can properly dispose of these items.

Compost

Ex. An expired bagged salad kit -- could be avoided by buying less food more frequently, or donating food you don't think you'll need to the Food Bank or Breadline

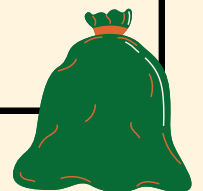


Compost

Did you know that you can compost more than food waste? Don't throw away your paper, cardboard, or yard waste. Most organic waste can be composted into a soil amendment.

Landfill

Ex. A ziploc bag -- could be avoided by using a reusable container



Where to go

Take the contents of each pile to the locations listed below. This is a great way to familiarize yourself with some more sustainable waste disposal alternatives to the transfer site.



Donate

Closet Collections

Closet Collections accepts **clothing, fabric, and household items**. They sell them to Value Village to support the Fairbanks Resource Agency and their community efforts. Clothing can be dropped off 24/7 at one of their convenient drop bins. To schedule a pick up for other donations, just give them a call.

(907) - 456 - 8901 | 805 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK | fra-alaska.org/closet-collections

Salvation Army

Salvation Army accepts **clothing, furniture, appliances, and household items**. Donations are tax deductible and support they're work in the community. Donations can be dropped off at their thrift store or give them a call to schedule a pick up.

(907) - 456 - 2085 | 2222 Cushman St. Fairbanks, AK | fairbanks.salvationarmy.org

Chena Tool Library

The Chena Tool Library accepts **tools** to add to their tool library, an affordable membership based tool rental service. Donations are tax deductible. Donations can be dropped off during operating hours or scheduled via email chenatoollibrary@gmail.com

(907) - 455 - 8665 | 1917 Lillian St. Fairbanks, AK | chenatoollibrary.org

Other Ways to Repurpose Gently Items

There are other places to donate clothes and household items in town (including directly to Value Village). There are also places to bring used items for reuse. For example Play it Again Sports accepts used sports and exercise equipment and the Literacy Council accepts gently used books.

Where to go



Take the contents of each pile to the locations listed below. This is a great way to familiarize yourself with some more sustainable waste disposal alternatives to the transfer site.

Recycle

Fairbanks Central Recycling Facility

The Central Recycling Facility accepts **#1 plastic bottles & jugs, #2 plastic bottles & jugs, aluminum cans, cardboard, mixed paper products, and household electronics.**

They accept materials from 12-5:30 Tuesday-Friday and 9-5 on Saturday. Remember to separate your recyclables before you get there.

CRF: (907) - 374 - 6616 | Recycling Manager (Matt Pearson): (907) - 374 - 6616

1855 Marika Rd. Fairbanks, AK | fnsb.gov/294/Central-Recycling-Facility

Green Star of Interior Alaska

Green Star is the contractor for the CRF, so most recyclables can be taken there. They accept **fluorescent bulbs** directly at their facility. Green Star refurbishes and sells used electronics and recycles what cannot be reused. Donations can be dropped off at the Central Recycling Facility (information listed above).

(907) - 452 - 4152 | info@iagreenstar.org | iagreenstar.org

GLASSroots Alaska

GLASSroots Alaska accepts **clean glass jars and bottles.** Donations must be free of food particles, metal rings, and plastic labels. GLASSroots crushes the glass with their glass pulverizing machine and creates sand from recycled glass that can be used in many projects. Email them for more information about donations.

glassrootsalaska.com | alaskaglassroots@gmail.com

Other Ways to Recycle

Check out Green Star's Interactive Recycling Guide to find out other ways to recycle. For example, you can take plastic grocery bags back to Safeway or Fred Meyer's.

iagreenstar.org/recycling/#map

Where to go

Take the contents of each pile to the locations listed below. This is a great way to familiarize yourself with some more sustainable waste disposal alternatives to the transfer site.



Compost

Compost FBX Community Drop Sites

The Compost FBX Drop Sites accept most organic waste products including **food waste, coffee grounds, paper, cardboard, hay, wood chips, leaves, and yard/garden waste.** Drop off sites are self-serve and open 24/7. Materials need to be separated into greens and browns. Greens are nitrogen heavy materials including food waste, coffee grounds, and green yard waste. Browns are paper, cardboard, leaves, and dead yard waste. Materials are collected and composted for the community gardens the drop sites are located at.

1679 23rd Ave Fairbanks, AK | Corner of 23rd Ave. and Barnette St. Fairbanks, AK
compostfbx.com | compostfbx@gmail.com

Your Backyard!

Composting is an easy way to divert organic waste from the landfill at home. Start a traditional compost pile in your backyard. Get a worm bucket and feed your worms shredded paper and food scraps. Ferment your food waste using the bokashi method. Composting at home is a rewarding process that will leave you with a great soil amendment for your garden, houseplants, or lawn. Consider alternative forms of compost as well, including bokashi or vermiculture. Vermiculture is the process of raising worms to create compost. This can be done indoors, year-rounds and is a great way to dispose of organic waste. Specifically food waste and paper. For more information on how to start composting at home check out the Compost FBX website and the UAF Cooperative Extension Publications about composting in Alaska.

compostfbx.com | <https://cespubs.uaf.edu/publications/?cat=&s=composting>

Other Ways to Reduce Organic Waste

Avoid creating food waste. Donate any extra food to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank or Bread Line Inc. before it goes bad.

fairbanksfoodbank.org | breadlineak.org

How can you reduce your waste?

Brainstorm

What did you find? Did you learn anything? Did anything surprise you? Are there any obvious ways you can reduce your waste? Brainstorm so waste reduction ideas!

List your best ideas for waste reduction in your household

Thanks so much for participating! Submit your completed waste audit electronically to compostfbx@gmail.com or via Instagram/Facebook to [@compostfbx](#) by Nov 1. You can also deliver your audit on paper to the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District at 590 University Ave Suite 2. We will donate one food item to the Fairbanks Community Food Bank for each audit submitted. You will also be entered to win a prize basket! Questions? Email compostfbx@gmail.com