

OHIO STADIUM GOES ZERO WASTE

Ohio Stadium is one of the largest and best-known stadiums in the country. In Autumn 2011, through the collaboration of the Department of Athletics and the Office of Energy Services and Sustainability, Ohio Stadium took bold steps to move toward Zero Waste. Zero Waste refers to diverting 90% of disposed materials away from the landfill by recycling, repurposing, and composting.



Zero Waste Station



The first objective was to minimize waste at the source by eliminating landfill products and switching to those that are compostable or recyclable.

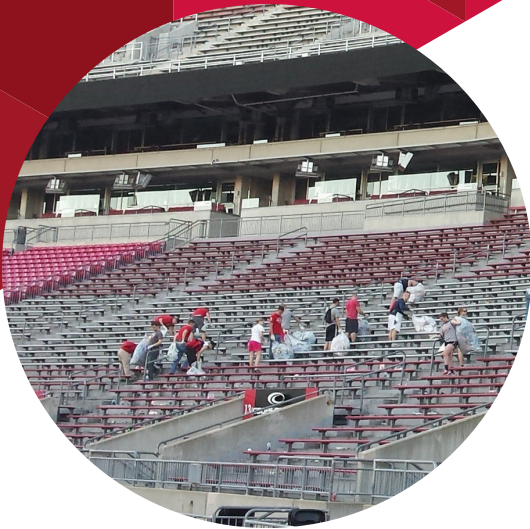
All trash cans were removed from the stadium and replaced by almost 75 Zero Waste Stations with recycling and compost bins.



At each game, up to 35 high school students are hired to assist with the program as Zero Waste Educators. They have two primary functions: to educate fans on proper disposal and to correct any cross-contamination at their Zero Waste stations. This is an innovative collaboration as students play a vital role in the Zero Waste efforts and receive exposure to sustainability, higher education and positive work ethics.

High school students hired as Zero Waste Educators to educate fans on proper disposal.

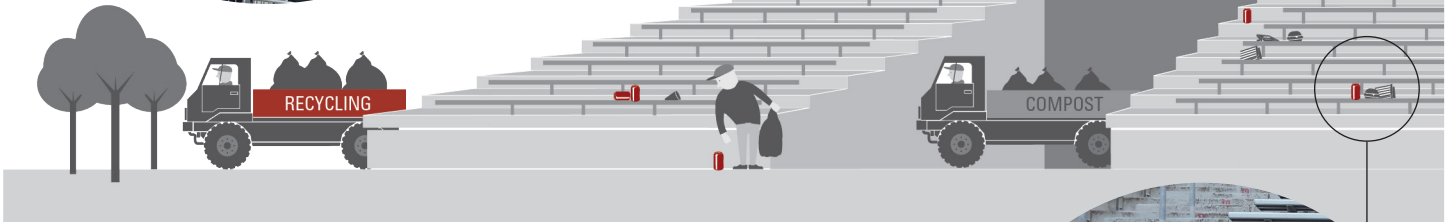




POST-GAME CLEANUP

The day after the game, the stadium is cleaned from top to bottom. The Ohio State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program sorts the materials left in the stands. This is critical because almost 50 percent of the game day materials are left in the stands by fans. As the NROTC cleans the stands, the stadium operations staff separates the compost and recycling bags in the concourse for transportation to the processing facility.

Naval ROTC cleans the stands, sorting materials into recycling and compost.

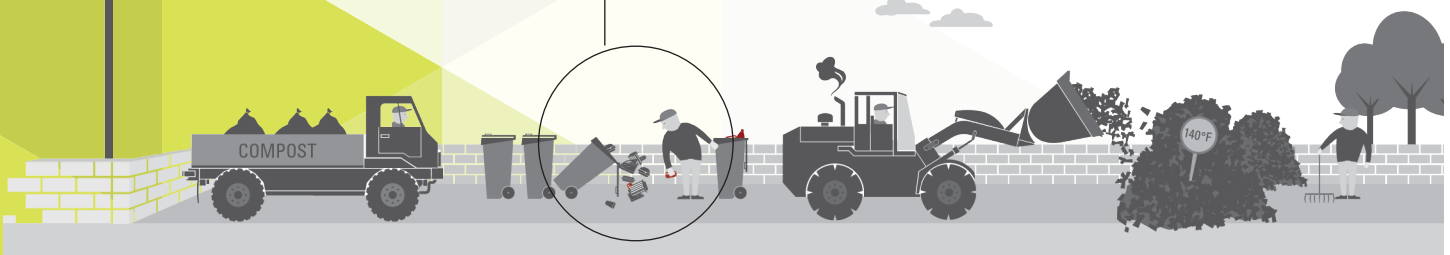


Almost 50 percent of game day materials are left in the stands by the fans.



PRICE FARMS ORGANICS

Sifting through pre-consumer food scraps to remove contaminants.

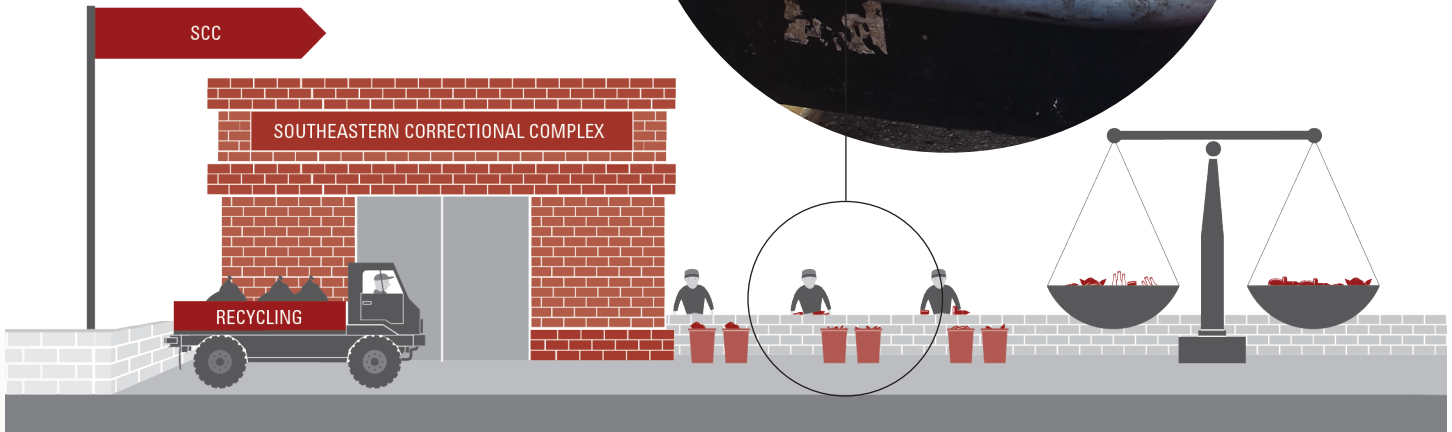


Immediately after the game, leftover pre-consumer food from the concession stand, suites, and kitchens is brought to the food concessionaire's (Levy Restaurants) warehouse. There it is evaluated for either donation or composting. Ohio State's average food donation was almost 600 pounds last season alone. The rest of the food scraps are sent to Price Farms Organics, over 7.5 tons of food scraps during the 2016 football season. There it is mixed and covered with coffee grounds and manure. The pile is turned 4-6 times to introduce oxygen, helping to reach temperatures up to 140° F, which destroys harmful bacteria.

Compost almost complete to be sold as a soil amendment mulch.



Inmates at SCC sorting recycling.



PROCESSING FACILITY

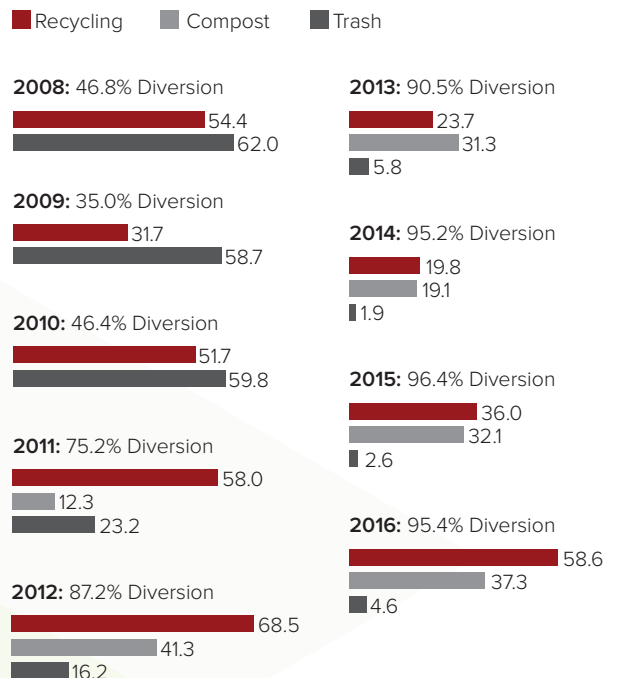
Once the stadium is cleaned, the bags of recycling and post-consumer compost are sent to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections' (ODRC) Southeastern Correctional Complex (SCC). Starting in 2012, SCC offered to sort the recycling as part of an initiative supporting sustainability programs at ODRC. Inmates separate materials into piles of metal, plastics, cardboard, wrappers, liners, compost, and landfill. Materials are weighed individually and sold on the recycling market, with the money being reinvested into programming for the inmates.

CELEBRATING A GREAT SUCCESS

Ohio Stadium is the largest stadium in the country, if not in the world, to achieve Zero Waste on a consistent basis. None of this would have been possible without the collaboration of numerous stakeholders. Through the guidance of each partners' leaders, thousands of individuals assist in setting Ohio State as the premier example of achieving Zero Waste.

The first Zero Waste game was achieved in the 2012 season and has been reached in every season after. Additionally, Ohio State has increased its diversion rate and has drastically reduced the total amount of materials disposed during games. With all this success, Ohio State has been named the Big Ten Conference Diversion Rate Champion in the Game Day Challenge, a national football recycling competition, for five straight years.

ZERO WASTE SEASON TOTALS (TONS)



For more information, please visit
fod.osu.edu/zero-waste-ohio-stadium