

King Middle School

Baseline Waste Audit Data Summary

November 17, 2022

Background:

BUSD is gearing up to pilot reusable food service ware in the cafeteria at Wood Middle School for the 6th grade lunch period. To assess the impact on food waste and waste from single use disposable items, BUSD's Sustainability Manager, Sofia Peltz reached out to StopWaste and Center for Environmental Health (CEH) to conduct a pre-pilot baseline waste audit. On Thursday, November 17, 2022, StopWaste along with Sofia Peltz, CEH's Food Program Coordinator, Ben Schleifer, and two UC Berkeley students conducted this waste assessment. The data and findings from that audit are outlined in this report.

In attendance:

- StopWaste – *Arielle Conway, Zohe Slack, Anne Frost*
- Berkeley Unified School District – *Sofia Peltz*
- Center for Environmental Health – *Ben Schleifer*
- UC Berkeley Students

Process:

On Thursday, November 17th, 2022, auditors observed all grade level lunch periods in the dining hall, where all student meals are served and where all students eat lunch. The two Brute bins that are usually located in front of the sorting station were taken away and students were directed to use the existing sorting station – garbage, compost, liquids, recycling – so auditors could best assess student sorting. After the last lunch period, the auditors pulled the bags from all waste bins in the cafeteria.

Auditors set up the waste audit outside the cafeteria. They set up three tarps – red (landfill sample), blue (recycle sample), and green (compost sample). Auditors then began sorting the waste on the appropriate tarp, depending on what bin the bags were pulled from. Auditors did not look at the liquids stream.

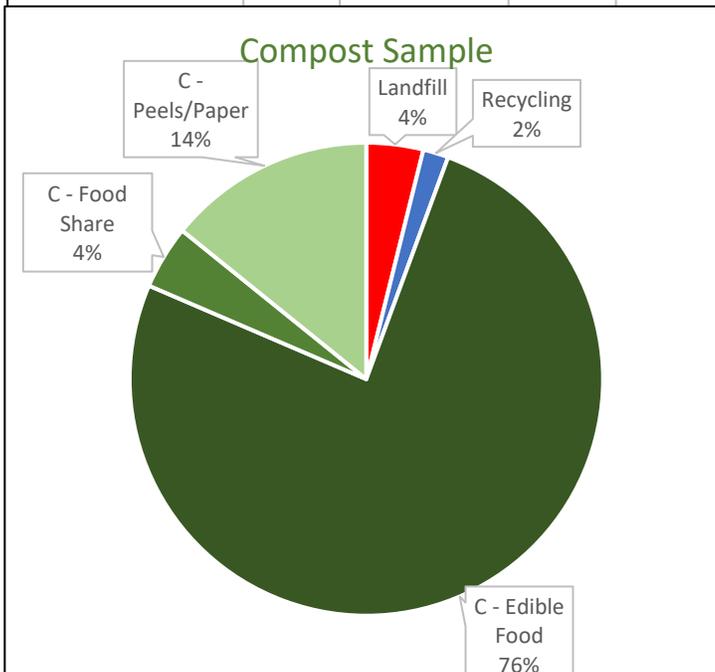
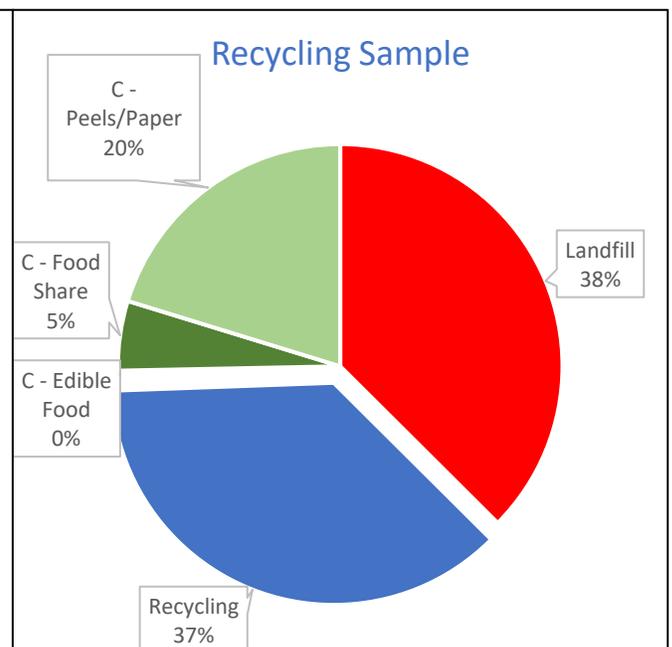
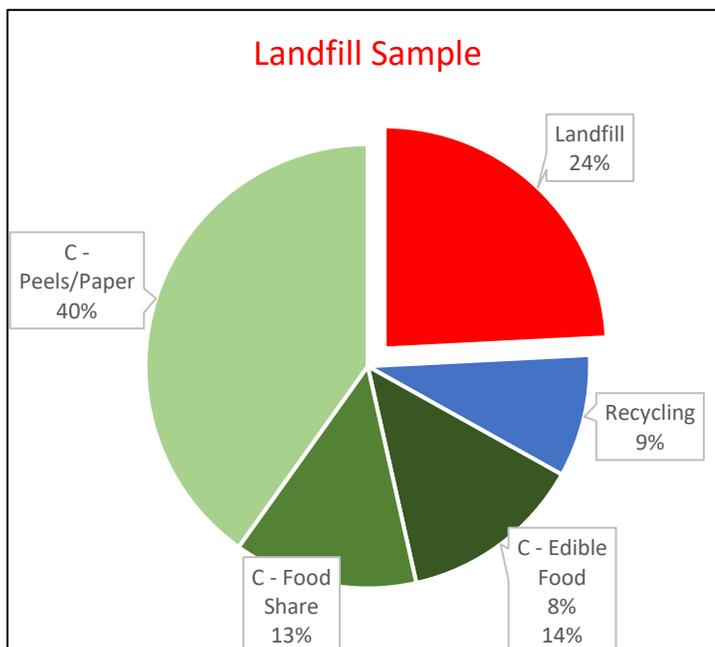
When sorting the waste samples, items were sorted, and the data collected using the following categories:

- **Landfill** – items that must be discarded into the trash.
- **Recycling** – items that could have been put in the recycle bin.
- **Compost – Edible Food** – wasted food that could have been eaten.
- **Compost – Food Share** – wasted food from the school meal program that could have been placed on a food share table (if available) or donated to a food recovery organization.
- **Compost – Inedible** – wasted compostable materials like food peels, bones, and soiled paper.

On the lunch menu on the day of the audit was: Pork or Tofu rice bowl, red beans, greens; Pulled turkey or veg patty, bun, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce.

Waste Audit Data:

	Landfill Bin		Recycling Bin		Compost Bin	
	Pounds	%	Pounds	%	Pounds	%
Landfill	2.17	14%	1.48	37%	2.68	4%
Recycling	0.8	5%	1.46	37%	1.2	2%
C - Edible Food	7.8	8%	0.01	0%	52.4	76%
C - Food Share	1.2	8%	0.20	5%	3	4%
C - Peels/Paper	3.6	23%	0.80	20%	9.8	14%
Total sample weight	15.57	lbs	3.95	lbs	69.08	lbs
% Correct	14%	Correct	37%	Correct	90%	Correct
% Contamination	86%	Contamination	63%	Contamination	10%	Contamination



Potential Food Share* Item Count	
Item	#
Bread Rolls	12
Apples	35
Pre-Packaged Salad	1
Milk/Chocolate Milk Cartons	17
Total	65

*Potential Food Share items are items served for the school meal program that could potentially go on a food share table and picked up by other students or donated to a food recovery partner.

Photos

A link to all photos can be found here: <https://bit.ly/BUSDwasteauditphotos>



4 landfill sample bags sorted



4 recycle sample bags sorted



8 compost sample bags sorted

