Middlebury Institute of International Studies
2022 Waste Audit Findings
A Note on Data
The 2022 Waste Audit was conducted by Liz Hofius and Brianna Kennedy. During the audit, the team found materials that were incorrectly sorted. Where possible, the team then placed those materials in the correct bin -- thereby “diverting” the material. According to the MIIS Climate Action Plan (CAP), MIIS aims to divert 65% of waste from landfill by 2024. The process of diversion, as referenced in the CAP, is not the same as the “diversion” that the waste audit team did.

The waste audit’s “diversion” was a tool by which the team was able to see how accurately the MIIS community sorts its waste. Diversion in this context, then, indicates the percentage of waste that was incorrectly sorted and still met the requirements necessary for its proper container.* General diversion goals that are outlined in the CAP refer to the percentage of waste correctly sorted in comparison to previous years. For example, if 50% of what was found in the trash bins should have been recycled in 2021, but only 25% of what was found in the trash bins should have been recycled in 2022, that would be a 50% diversion from landfill. Definitions of the following terms, used throughout the document, can be found on the following page.

* Monterey, as with many counties in the country, has specific requirements for its recyclables, namely that they are clean (no food) and dry.
Legend

**Landfill Initial:** Waste pulled from the landfill/trash container, without any intervention or sorting.

**Landfill Actual:** Once sorted, the materials that were correctly placed, and therefore remained in the landfill bin

**Recycling Diverted:** waste from Landfill Initial that was incorrectly sorted and met the requirements for recycling (clean and dry), and was therefore diverted from the Landfill pile into the Recycling pile.

**Could Have Been Recycled:** Materials in the Landfill Initial (or Recycling Initial) are technically recyclable but did not meet the requirements for recycling (i.e. had too much food on them)

**Compost Diverted:** Waste found in Landfill Initial or Recycling Initial that was compostable

**Actual Compost:** correctly composted materials
Campus Landfill Composition

- McGowan: 6.5 pounds
  - Compost Diverted: 0.5 pounds
  - Recycling Diverted: 2 pounds
  - Could Have Been Recycled: 1.5 pounds
  - Actual Landfill: 2.5 pounds

- Samson: 3 pounds
  - Compost Diverted: 0.5 pounds
  - Recycling Diverted: 1.5 pounds
  - Could Have Been Recycled: 0.5 pounds
  - Actual Landfill: 0.5 pounds

- McCon: 4 pounds
  - Compost Diverted: 0.5 pounds
  - Recycling Diverted: 1.5 pounds
  - Could Have Been Recycled: 0.5 pounds
  - Actual Landfill: 2 pounds

- Holland: 2 pounds
  - Compost Diverted: 0.5 pounds
  - Recycling Diverted: 1.5 pounds
  - Could Have Been Recycled: 0 pounds
  - Actual Landfill: 0.5 pounds
Recycling

Campus Recycling Composition
Compost

Campus Compost Composition

Combined Campus Compost

Amount in Pounds

Campus Compost Composition

97.3%