



Quarterly Newsletter

Climate Action & Resiliency Division
County Administrator's Office
June 2023

Climate resilient buildings



A team conducting a waste audit at the Human Services building at 2550 Paulin Drive, Santa Rosa.

Sonoma County audits trash as it develops 'zero waste' plan

It is an ambitious goal in the county's five-year Strategic Plan: to make all county facilities "zero waste." The concept prevents and repurposes waste through a variety of strategies, reducing the amount of garbage sent to landfills. To achieve this, the county is conducting a study to quantify the amount of waste it generates while analyzing the types of materials going into the waste streams.

The audit will tell us how much waste the county is producing, and what sorts of things are typically being disposed of in the county's waste bins. This critical information will help the county devise new ways to reduce and recycle waste, helping us achieve our goal of zero waste. It will also help minimize the county's greenhouse gas footprint, pushing us closer to our goals of making county facilities carbon neutral as well. The Climate Action & Resiliency Division is overseeing this effort, with the support of facilities staff from across the county, Recology, Zero Waste Sonoma, and a consulting firm, **SCS Engineers**.

This week, 20 waste audits were conducted at different county facilities that represent the range of services the county oversees. Sites audited included Doran Regional Park, the Charles M. Schultz-Sonoma County Airport, the Male Adult Detention Facility, the County Administration Building, and more. A specialized team from a waste auditing company visited these locations and dissected the waste that had been collected, categorized it based on material, and weighed it. The project team will use this information, alongside data from Recology and Zero Waste Sonoma, to depict what the county's overall waste production looks like and make recommendations to achieve zero waste. The Climate Action & Resiliency Division should have a final report consolidated in August.

