

Corporate Waste Audits



Waste audits are useful tools for any employer trying to reduce its waste. A study of 100 corporate waste audits by GreatForests.com found that 77 percent of what was thrown out as trash was actually recyclable. The missorted refuse consisted of organics (34 percent), paper (23 percent), glass/metal/plastic (19 percent), and e-waste (1 percent).

A waste audit can tell an employer what is working or not working with its current waste and recycling program. Genentech audits have revealed excessive food waste that has led to the deployment of more compost containers in specific areas. Also, waste audits can unlock missing revenue streams and potential savings. By reducing trash, an employer can reduce costs associated with waste hauling and materials management.

At Genentech, the Zero Waste Manager conducts campus-wide waste audits twice a year. Prior to the audit, Genentech employees are invited to volunteer to help examine the waste. Volunteers are assigned to audit the waste from the building in which they work, to create a sense of ownership over the waste.

The janitorial staff stages the accumulated waste in preparation for the audit. Then the volunteers sort through the waste and catalog how much has been missorted. From data and metrics that have been collected and recorded, Genentech has found that, in recent years, just 35 percent of waste in landfill bins should go to landfill, and the rest has been missorted.

Thanks to these audits, Genentech is aware that food waste is a significant area of concern. Food waste is missorted the most often at Genentech, and it causes issues for waste compactors. Genentech has used this information to implement targeted organic waste reduction strategies and track progress.

References and Resources

- [“Waste Audit Facts and Benefits: Why Every Business Needs One”](#) GreatForest.com
- [“How to Plan a Waste Audit.”](#) Dumpsters.com

Document last updated May 2023

This document is intended to introduce a concept and inspire further research. While we strive for accuracy, this brief does not encompass the full spectrum of data and perspectives related to the topic. Readers are encouraged to seek additional information and expert guidance.