

2021 Global Sustainability Waste Report



Costco's Global Waste Report FY20 to FY21 Comparison (US Tons)

Reporting Regions ¹	To Landfill or Incineration ²		Recycled Cardboard		Recycled Shrink-Wrap		Food Donations		All Other Recycling and WTE ⁴	
	FY2020	FY2021	FY2020	FY2021	FY2020	FY2021	FY2020	FY2021	FY2020	FY2021
US	202,590	229,293 ³	387,931	439,533	11,554	13,062	33,655	34,955	183,869	376,396 ³
Canada	57,937	59,884	102,383	112,684	2,301	2,765	8,171	8,834 ³	20,940	22,351
Mexico	10,390	6,744 ³	18,354	19,539	1,142	1,215	1,913	2,019	1,917	1,083 ³
UK	316	0	11,352	13,062	636	666	1,748	2,279	10,593	16,783 ³
Japan	10,524	25,237	20,700	28,529	975	981	356	687	11,520	11,966
S. Korea	1,818	0	18,101	20,642	787	859	313	445 ³	13,276	9,012
Taiwan	0	0	13,124	15,527 ³	633	642 ³	106	141 ³	14,027	13,696 ³
Australia	6,452	4,436	6,865	7,387	242	424	4	82 ³	1,397	1,820
Spain	784	1,474	636	541	N/A	29	48	27	590	968
France	180	336	630	446	17	0 ³	46	83	890	380 ³
Iceland	278	<1	319	391 ³	32	23	55	9	183	463
China	0	470	1,323	1,167	8	72	N/A	N/A	1,426	1,286

¹FY21 data includes new warehouses, distribution centers, ancillary businesses, Costco Logistics and regional offices. 959 Locations are included in this report, which is an increase of 49 locations over last year. The data reported is compiled from the best available sources at the time of publication, may change as new information becomes available and will be restated if necessary in future reports.

²During FY21, Costco added food waste sent to waste to energy, incineration without the creation of energy, hazardous waste sent to authorized landfills and items disposed of down the sewer to our landfill category. Our goal is to continuously divert waste away from these categories.

³Includes estimations or explanations on weights. See below for additional details:

US: Landfill weights include estimates for 10 locations. 5 Locations were estimated for one month, based on averages, due to system issues with the waste hauler.

5 Locations with small dumpsters were estimated using EPA standard weights. Locations with emergency live loads of trash pickup were estimated based on size of the pickup. All U.S. locations with commingled recycling are estimated based on contents of containers, haul frequency and size of the container. Non-food donations (donated to World Vision) are estimated by average truckload of 8,700 pounds per truck.

Canada: Food donations weights include some estimations based on quantity and product donated.

Mexico: Tires and auto batteries include an estimate that 25% went to authorized landfill. Mattress weight calculated based on an average weight of 100 pounds per mattress.

UK: Auto batteries are calculated based on an average weight of 20 KG per battery.

South Korea: Food donations are calculated based on 1 KG per 10,000 KRW (South Korean Won).

Taiwan: Most weight is calculated by a pallet jack scale; some weights may vary due to calibrations issues with the scale.

Australia: Food donations are calculated based on system weights; some items with variable weights may be estimated.

France: Used cooking oil weight is based on the number of tanks collected per period. Shrink-wrap is included in mixed plastic recycling.

Iceland: Paper is tracked with cardboard weight.

⁴Includes all mixed recycling and industrial uses. Programs vary by region.

Costco's Global Diversion by Commodity (Measured in US Tons)

Organics/Food Waste



FOOD DONATIONS
49,561 US tons



ANIMAL FEED
14,998 US tons



ANAEROBIC DIGESTION
12,680 US tons



COMPOST
16,985 US tons



MEAT RENDERING
150,806 US tons



COOKING OIL & GREASE TRAP
46,076 US tons

Non Food Waste



CARDBOARD
659,449 US tons



SHRINK-WRAP
20,737 US tons



SCRAP METAL
6,212 US tons



MIXED PLASTIC
6,609 US tons



COMMINGLED RECYCLING
3,178 US tons



PAPER
5,325 US tons



GLASS
111 US tons



WOOD
8,862 US tons



NON-FOOD DONATIONS
17,612 US tons



MATTRESSES
102 US tons



POLYSTYRENE
1,054 US tons



TIRES
87,585 US tons



ELECTRONICS & IT EQUIPMENT
7,314 US tons



AUTO BATTERIES
34,310 US tons



BATTERIES
93 US tons



LIGHT BULBS
23 US tons



WASTE TO ENERGY
35,993 US tons



HAZARDOUS WASTE RECYCLING
185 US tons