

Solid Waste Management Pilot Project Findings

Goals Review

The pilot project helped FAS evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness and cost of diverting more materials from landfill. Specifically we sought to:

- Demonstrate the feasibility of diverting bathroom paper towel waste from landfills to compost.
- Compare the effectiveness and cost of various strategies for increasing the amount of recycled material diverted from the landfill waste stream.

Three Phase Pilot

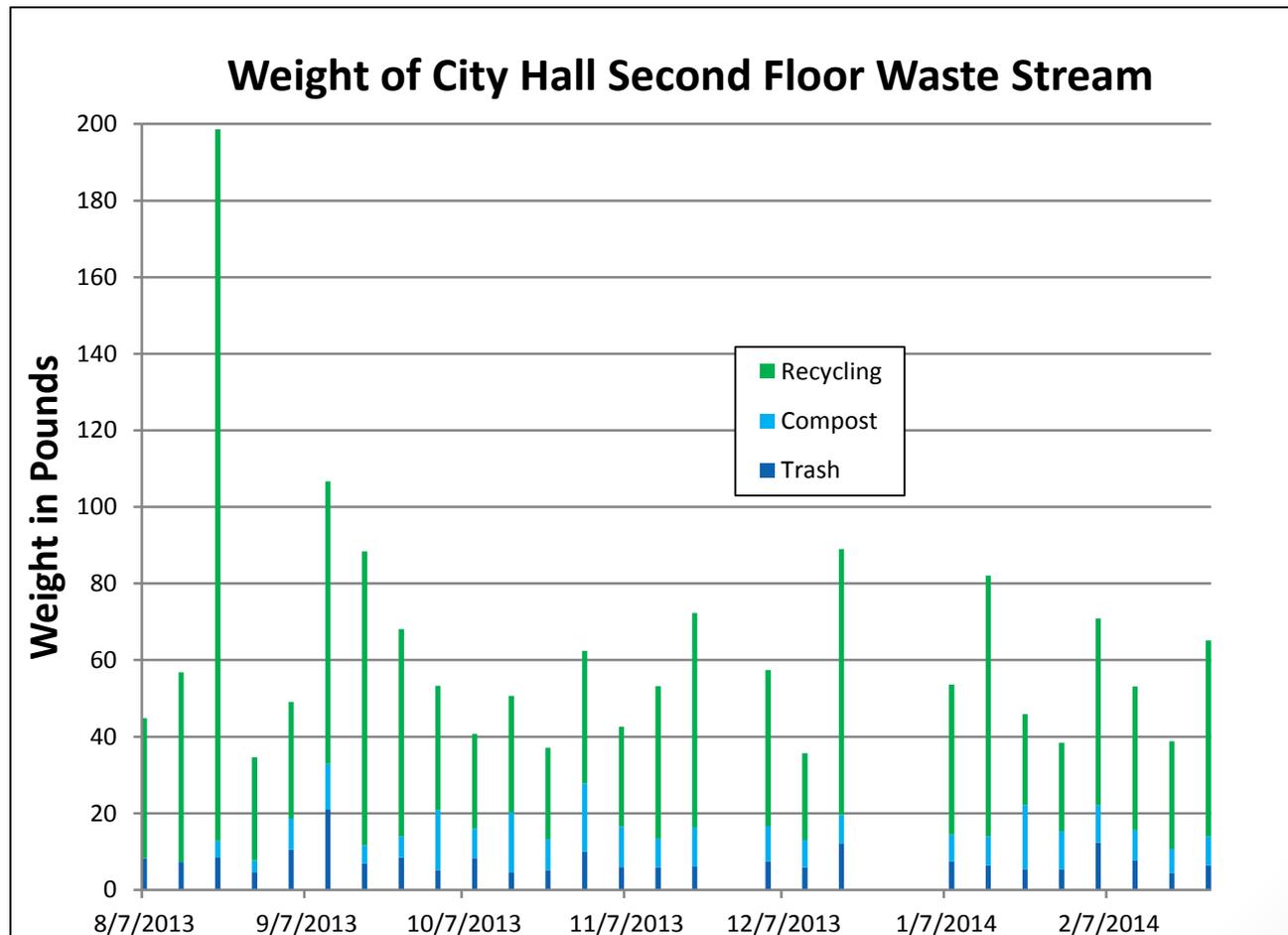
- Phase I—Aug. to Sept. 2013. Assess status quo. FAS will measure waste stream output for City Hall's Second Floor.
- Phase II—Oct. to Nov. 2013. Implement paper towel composting in a limited capacity in City Hall and Seattle Municipal Tower; increasing presence of centrally located recycling bins on City Hall's Second Floor.
- Phase III—Dec. 2013 to Feb. 2014. Replace desk side paper recycling containers with combined recycling containers on City Hall's Second Floor.

Results

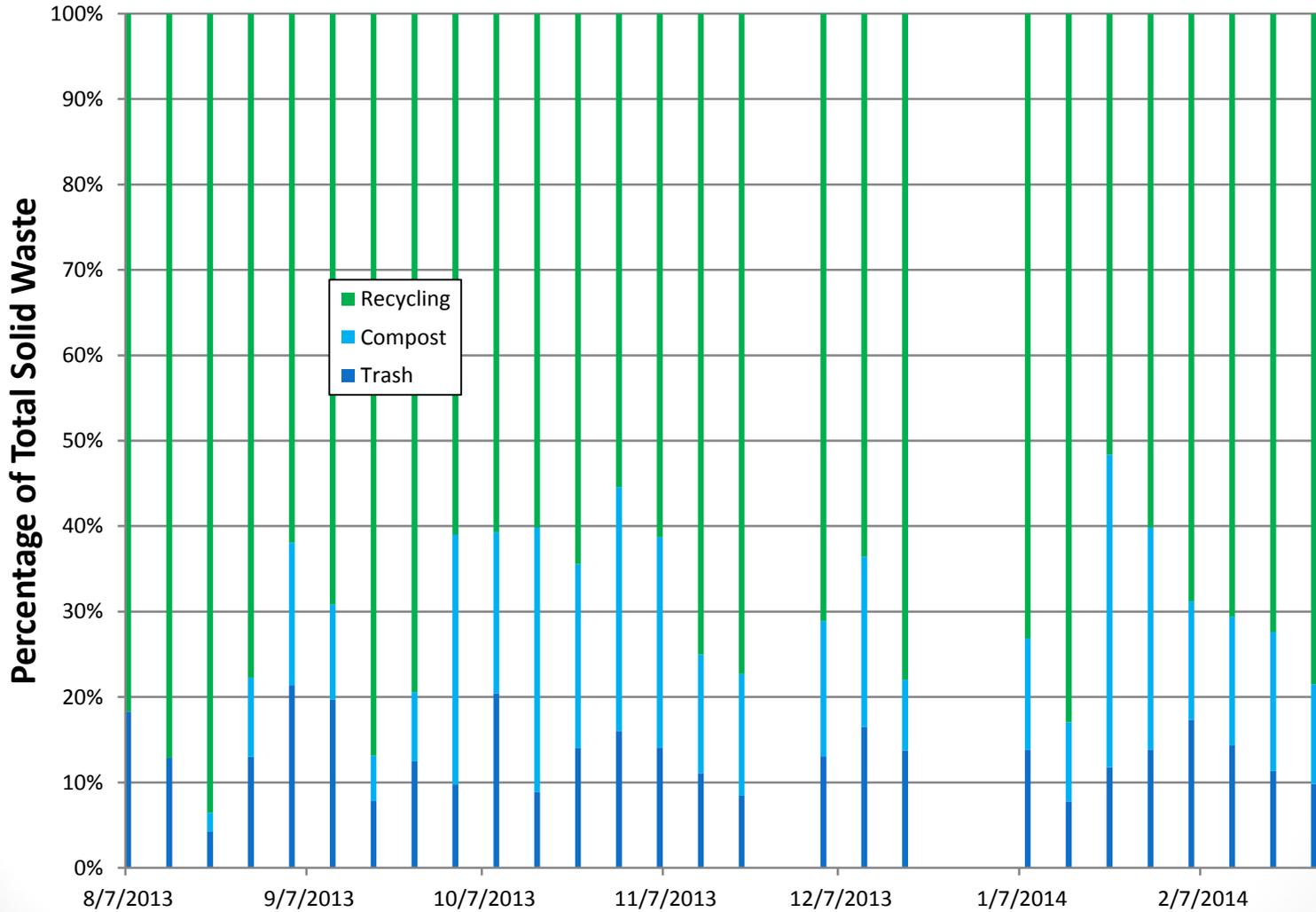
- Overall, measurements show that 88 percent of the solid waste generated on the second floor of City Hall was diverted from landfill.

Results, cont.

- There is substantial day-to-day variation in the size and composition of the solid waste stream.



Composition of City Hall Second Floor Waste Stream



Results, cont.

- Recycling strategy has little effect on recycling rate.

Average Composition of City Council Waste Stream

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Trash	11%	13%	12%
Recycling	81%	67%	71%
Compost	8%	20%	16%

Adjusted Average Composition of City Council Waste Stream

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Trash	14%	13%	12%
Recycling	75%	67%	71%
Compost	10%	20%	16%

Results cont.

- Composting paper towel waste reduced trash

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Trash	14%	13%	12%
Recycling	75%	67%	71%
Compost	10%	20%	16%

- Paper towel waste from employee bathrooms was clean enough to compost successfully.

Next Steps

- Phase in implementation of paper towel composting for the downtown civic core (City Hall, the Seattle Justice Center, and Seattle Municipal Tower).
- Periodically measure and review recycling practices in the civic core.