

Walmart Eliminates More than 80 percent of Its Waste in California That Would Otherwise Go to Landfills



Press Kit ▾

Company results far exceed national average where EPA estimates only 45 percent of waste is diverted from landfills

BENTONVILLE, Ark., March 17, 2011 – Walmart reported today that it has eliminated more than 80 percent of the waste that would go to landfills from its operations in California. The company's comprehensive waste reduction program that produced these results is now being implemented across Walmart's 4,400 stores, Sam's Club locations and distribution centers in the U.S., moving it closer to its global goal of creating zero waste.

Achieving a similar 80 percent reduction in its landfill waste across the country would help Walmart prevent more than 11.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. This is equal to taking more than 2 million cars off the road for a year.

"We are proud of the progress we are making toward our zero waste goal, but realize we still have more work to do," said Bill Simon, president and CEO of Walmart U.S. "We are committed to actively finding and developing solutions that are both good for the environment and good for business."

"We do everything with the customer in mind. We are committed to buying, operating and selling for less, and our waste program is a great example of developing new ideas that help us save our customers money," continued Simon. "Through this program we are able to provide the raw materials needed to make new products, recycle millions of pounds of commodities and reduce the environmental impact of landfills."

Beginning in 2009, Walmart created a nationwide infrastructure of landfill alternatives that could open new opportunities for municipalities and other businesses to reduce the amount of solid waste they send to landfills. The [Walmart zero waste program](#) has three main components:

- **Recycling** cardboard, paper, aluminum, plastic bags and roughly 30 other items through the super sandwich bale (SSB) program. Items not eligible for the SSB, including wood pallets, polystyrene [plastic](#) and apparel, are sent to Walmart's return centers for reuse or [recycling](#).
- **Donating** healthy, nutritious food to food banks around the country. In 2010, Walmart donated 256 million pounds of [food](#) to hunger relief organizations – the equivalent of 197 million meals.
- **Creating** animal feed, energy or compost from expired food and other organic products following the [EPA's food waste hierarchy](#).

"Walmart is to be commended for making real progress in minimizing the environmental impact of waste

Walmart is to be commended for making real progress in minimizing the environmental impact of waste from its stores,” said Karen Luken, director of the [Clinton Climate Initiative’s](#) (CCI) Waste Program. “One of the key aims for CCI’s Waste Program is to reduce methane emissions from landfills, and Walmart’s initiative sends a clear message to other businesses that this is one source of emissions that can and should be addressed now.”

Walmart began implementing and consistently tracking its new and existing [waste](#) reduction efforts in California in 2009. A third-party review has shown Walmart uses an appropriate process to establish its waste reduction data. The nationwide program, based on the California model, will include an ongoing review to monitor the program’s success.

About Walmart

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), or “Walmart,” serves customers and members more than 200 million times per week at more than 8,900 retail units under 60 different banners in 15 countries. With fiscal year 2011 sales of \$419 billion, Walmart employs more than 2 million associates worldwide. A leader in sustainability, corporate philanthropy and employment opportunity, Walmart ranked first among retailers in Fortune Magazine’s 2010 Most Admired Companies survey. Additional information about Walmart can be found by visiting <http://walmartstores.com/> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/walmart>. Online merchandise sales are available at <http://www.walmart.com/> and <http://www.samsclub.com/>.

According to the EPA calculator - <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html>
Nationwide rates - <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/municipal/>

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