

Waste

THE IMPORTANCE OF WASTE

Reducing overall waste is critical to the success of the Ecodistrict because processing waste uses a lot of energy and if it cannot be reused, the waste is trucked to a landfill where it consumes large amounts of land, making it unusable for anything else. This section discusses two kinds of waste:

- › **Building waste** – the waste that is produced in buildings everyday such as waste from food and paper.
- › **Construction waste** – the waste that results from building materials that can't be reused when an existing building is demolished or when a new building is constructed.

THE AREA TODAY

Today, it is estimated that 60 to 70 percent of the area's overall waste is sent to the landfill. This means that it is recycling approximately 30 to 40 percent of its current building waste -largely paper, plastics, and glass. There are very limited composting opportunities for food and landscape residuals today. to put this into context, the City of San Francisco is now diverting 77 percent of its overall waste from the landfill. This means that it is recycling and/or reusing 77 percent of its overall waste and that only 23 percent of its overall waste is going to the landfill.

THE TARGETS

There are two waste-related targets that are achievable in this plan.



**SOLID WASTE TO LANDFILL -
REDUCE BY 80 PERCENT**



**CONSTRUCTION WASTE -
RECYCLE 75 PERCENT AS BUILDINGS
ARE REHABILITATED OR REDEVELOPED**

RECOMMENDATIONS

DISTRICT SCALE

The district can effectively reduce waste generation through collective community action. In this regard, sorting waste at the point of use or altering procurement protocols is best orchestrated at a district scale.

USE REGIONAL WASTE AND RECYCLING SYSTEMS FULLY

The Study Area strategies utilize the regional waste and recycling system because currently it is not financially or technically feasible to process and reuse waste within the area itself.

Non potable water can be reclaimed from waste water. In this, the remnant solids from the water reclamation process would not be composed on site. Rather, they would be conveyed through the sewage system to the Blue Plains Waste Water Treatment Plant for further dewatering and anaerobic digestion. The power generated from the methane gas through anaerobic digestion would be used to power the treatment plant.

Operational improvements such as designated composting and recycling stations at all of the buildings will go a long way towards meeting the 80 percent diversion rate from the landfill.

PILOT COMPOSTING PROGRAM

- › In addition to continue bolstering recycling programs in federal and private buildings, the federal agencies and private buildings will significantly benefit from a pilot composting program for food and landscape residuals.