

# UBC Hazardous Waste Reduction & Recycling

The amount of hazardous waste generated at UBC has seen a steady and significant decrease over the past years due in part to some innovative SRS programming and efforts from the UBC community.

These trends are continuing and SRS is working hard with the research community at UBC to ensure every year the numbers reflect another decrease.



There was a 75% waste reduction in 2020 compared to 2006 and this reduction was largely achieved at the waste source - in our UBC labs. Learn more about source reduction in the [Laboratory Pollution Prevention Guide](#).

Hazardous waste minimization at UBC Point Gray Campus continued in 2020, with 45% waste recycled or treated. The main contributor was the RG1 & RG2 delisted/treated waste, reducing the hazardous waste by 20+ tonnes.

We note that the 2020 significant hazardous waste reduction on campus (>30% overall compared to 2019) was mostly due to Covid-19 and curtailed academic activities.

Your active participation in all available ESF recycling programs (automotive batteries, oil, paint, silver recovery) resulted in an additional hazardous waste reduction, of 2+ tonnes in 2020.

We thank you and look forward to waste reduction in 2021!



The graph above shows the trend of reducing hazardous waste at UBC. (Note: hazardous waste increased in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to lab waste generated during building renovations and decommissioning; in 2020, due to Covid-19 academic closures, much less waste was generated or recycled/treated)

