

# TRUE Waste Advisor Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. When should you conduct a waste audit for right sizing?**
  - A. During off-peak hours only**
  - B. At the facility's busiest operation times**
  - C. When bins are full, usually early in the morning**
  - D. At random times throughout the day**
- 2. What is the goal of reduce credit 1?**
  - A. To increase purchasing efficiency**
  - B. To document materials reduced by commodity**
  - C. To train staff on waste management**
  - D. To enhance supplier relationships**
- 3. What is required to qualify for closed loop credit regarding office paper?**
  - A. A minimum of 10% recycled content**
  - B. A minimum of 20% recycled content**
  - C. A minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content**
  - D. A minimum of 50% virgin paper content**
- 4. What does Credit 1.1 correspond to in terms of diversion percentage?**
  - A. 100% diversion**
  - B. 95% - 96.9% diversion**
  - C. 90.1% - 94.9% diversion**
  - D. 97% - 98.9% diversion**
- 5. What is a requirement for conducting a Zero Waste physical waste audit?**
  - A. Perform the audit annually without physical separation**
  - B. Involve only third-party personnel for the audit**
  - C. Complete the audit by on-site personnel or third party with physical separation of waste**
  - D. Only include recyclable materials in the audit**

- 6. What is the intent behind utilizing compost or mulch on-site?**
- A. To promote environmentally friendly practices**
  - B. To establish a local farmers' market**
  - C. To save on waste disposal fees**
  - D. To improve infrastructure planning**
- 7. What do employees need to do to implement innovative waste reduction activities?**
- A. Submit their creative ideas**
  - B. Attend extensive workshops**
  - C. Only follow existing procedures**
  - D. Reduce all activities related to waste**
- 8. What is the average overall diversion rate required for the past 12 months to meet minimum program requirements?**
- A. 80% or greater**
  - B. 85% or greater**
  - C. 90% or greater**
  - D. 95% or greater**
- 9. What is one of the motivations behind having a zero waste goal at the upper management level?**
- A. To create confusion among employees**
  - B. To enhance commitment and action towards waste reduction**
  - C. To keep plans vague and unmeasurable**
  - D. To focus only on external perceptions**
- 10. What does 'closed loop' refer to in waste management?**
- A. The practice of creating landfills**
  - B. The return of discarded materials back into the community**
  - C. The halting of all waste production**
  - D. The mixing of different waste types**

## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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## **1. When should you conduct a waste audit for right sizing?**

- A. During off-peak hours only**
- B. At the facility's busiest operation times**
- C. When bins are full, usually early in the morning**
- D. At random times throughout the day**

Conducting a waste audit for right sizing is most effectively done when bins are full, typically early in the morning. This timing allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the types and amounts of waste generated when the facility is at its most active. The rationale behind this choice is that a full bin provides a clear representation of the waste generated over a complete period, reflecting the actual volume and composition of waste produced during high-traffic times. By assessing the contents of full bins, one can identify patterns that inform decisions on the size and number of containers needed. Conducting the audit in the morning, right after bins have been emptied, can help ensure that you are observing waste generated by a full cycle of activity, allowing for effective planning to optimize waste management efforts. The other timing options generally fall short in providing the most accurate data required for right sizing waste containers. For instance, conducting audits during off-peak hours may not reflect the full spectrum of waste generated when operations are at their peak. Similarly, evaluating bins at busy times without checking for fullness may lead to misleading conclusions about waste generation rates. Random audits can lack the consistency needed for a thorough analysis, potentially missing critical patterns that emerge from full bins during peak activity times.

## **2. What is the goal of reduce credit 1?**

- A. To increase purchasing efficiency**
- B. To document materials reduced by commodity**
- C. To train staff on waste management**
- D. To enhance supplier relationships**

The goal of reduce credit 1 is to document materials reduced by commodity. This involves tracking and recording the specific types and amounts of materials that have been minimized or eliminated from the waste stream. By doing so, organizations can gain valuable insights into their waste generation patterns and identify areas where further reductions can occur. This documentation is essential for assessing the effectiveness of reduction efforts, setting benchmarks, and reporting progress towards sustainability goals. It provides a quantifiable measure of success in waste management strategies, allowing organizations to make informed decisions about future initiatives and improvements.

**3. What is required to qualify for closed loop credit regarding office paper?**

- A. A minimum of 10% recycled content**
- B. A minimum of 20% recycled content**
- C. A minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content**
- D. A minimum of 50% virgin paper content**

To qualify for closed loop credit regarding office paper, it is necessary for the paper to contain a specified percentage of post-consumer recycled content. The correct response, which states a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content, reflects the industry's push to ensure that paper products are not only recyclable but also made from materials that have already been used and discarded. This helps to promote sustainable practices by encouraging a cycle of reuse, thus reducing the consumption of virgin materials and the environmental impact associated with paper production. Closed loop credit is aimed at creating a circular economy where materials are continuously recycled and repurposed. By using post-consumer recycled content, companies can demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and resource conservation. The percentage specified serves as a benchmark for manufacturers to meet in order to qualify for credits, which can provide financial or regulatory incentives for recycling efforts. In contrast, lower thresholds or criteria focused on virgin fiber do not promote the same level of sustainability and do not align with the objectives of closed loop systems. Thus, the emphasis on post-consumer recycled content is paramount to achieving the goals of this recycling strategy.

**4. What does Credit 1.1 correspond to in terms of diversion percentage?**

- A. 100% diversion**
- B. 95% - 96.9% diversion**
- C. 90.1% - 94.9% diversion**
- D. 97% - 98.9% diversion**

Credit 1.1 refers to a specific range of diversion percentages that relates to waste reduction and recycling efforts. In the context of this question, it signifies achieving a diversion rate of 90.1% to 94.9%. This indicates that the majority of waste generated is being effectively diverted from landfills through recycling, composting, or other waste management strategies. Achieving this level of diversion is commendable and demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainable practices. This range is part of a tiered approach to waste diversion credits, where higher percentages of diversion correspond to specific credits or recognition. By focusing on this defined range of 90.1% to 94.9%, it highlights the importance of setting measurable goals in waste management strategies and achieving significant reductions in landfill use. Recognizing that diverting waste is not just an all-or-nothing approach allows organizations to better evaluate and enhance their waste management practices over time.

5. What is a requirement for conducting a Zero Waste physical waste audit?
- A. Perform the audit annually without physical separation
  - B. Involve only third-party personnel for the audit
  - C. Complete the audit by on-site personnel or third party with physical separation of waste**
  - D. Only include recyclable materials in the audit

Conducting a Zero Waste physical waste audit involves a detailed examination of the waste produced by an organization, with the goal of identifying opportunities to reduce waste and improve recycling efforts. The requirement for this type of audit is that it must be completed by either on-site personnel or a third party, ensuring there is physical separation of the waste during the audit process. Physical separation is crucial because it allows for a clear understanding of the types and quantities of materials being disposed of. By sorting waste into different categories (such as recyclables, compostables, and landfill), auditors can gain valuable insights into what's being wasted and how much is being thrown away. This level of detail is essential for developing effective waste reduction strategies and identifying areas for improvement. Involving on-site personnel or third party auditors guarantees that the audit is carried out with a comprehensive view and understanding of the waste management practices of the organization being evaluated. This collaborative approach enhances the accuracy of the audit findings, making it a key requirement for achieving Zero Waste goals.

6. What is the intent behind utilizing compost or mulch on-site?
- A. To promote environmentally friendly practices**
  - B. To establish a local farmers' market
  - C. To save on waste disposal fees
  - D. To improve infrastructure planning

The intent behind utilizing compost or mulch on-site primarily centers on promoting environmentally friendly practices. Composting processes organic waste into nutrient-rich material that can be used to improve soil health, promote plant growth, and support local ecosystems. By recycling organic waste this way, it reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, mitigates greenhouse gas emissions, and enhances biodiversity in the local environment. This practice aligns with sustainability goals and supports a more circular economy. Using compost and mulch also helps in water conservation by improving soil structure and retaining moisture, which further benefits plant health. Therefore, the overall focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability makes promoting environmentally friendly practices the correct answer in this context.

**7. What do employees need to do to implement innovative waste reduction activities?**

- A. Submit their creative ideas**
- B. Attend extensive workshops**
- C. Only follow existing procedures**
- D. Reduce all activities related to waste**

Implementing innovative waste reduction activities starts with encouraging employees to actively participate in the process by submitting their creative ideas. This approach fosters a culture of innovation and collaboration, allowing employees to contribute unique solutions that might not have been previously considered. Their insights and suggestions can lead to practical strategies for reducing waste, enhancing resource efficiency, and promoting sustainability within the organization. Encouraging employees to share their ideas not only empowers them but also helps the organization harness a diverse range of perspectives, which can be invaluable in developing effective waste reduction initiatives. It creates an environment where continuous improvement is valued, motivating staff to think critically about waste and to take proactive measures in addressing the issue.

**8. What is the average overall diversion rate required for the past 12 months to meet minimum program requirements?**

- A. 80% or greater**
- B. 85% or greater**
- C. 90% or greater**
- D. 95% or greater**

The average overall diversion rate required to meet minimum program requirements is set at 90% or greater. This high threshold reflects the commitment to effectively manage waste and promote sustainability efforts within waste management programs. Achieving a diversion rate of this level indicates that a significant majority of waste is being diverted from landfills through recycling, composting, and other processes, thus supporting environmental protection and resource conservation goals. A requirement of this nature encourages organizations to implement robust waste reduction strategies and actively seek innovative solutions to minimize waste. The set rate serves as a benchmark for evaluating progress and effectiveness in waste management practices.

**9. What is one of the motivations behind having a zero waste goal at the upper management level?**

- A. To create confusion among employees**
- B. To enhance commitment and action towards waste reduction**
- C. To keep plans vague and unmeasurable**
- D. To focus only on external perceptions**

The motivation behind having a zero waste goal at the upper management level is primarily to enhance commitment and action towards waste reduction. By setting a clear, ambitious goal like zero waste, upper management signals the importance of sustainability within the organization. This clear direction fosters a culture of accountability and encourages employees across all levels to actively participate in waste reduction initiatives. When upper management is committed to a zero waste goal, it often leads to the implementation of structured strategies for waste management, such as better recycling programs, reducing single-use items, and actively seeking innovative ways to minimize waste in operations. This commitment not only helps in achieving environmental benefits but can also enhance the organization's reputation, improve efficiency, and potentially lead to cost savings over time. The focus on measurable goals and a structured approach ensures that employees understand the expectations and are motivated to contribute to these objectives. This unified effort is crucial for creating a successful waste reduction program that aligns with the organization's sustainability vision and operational practices.

**10. What does 'closed loop' refer to in waste management?**

- A. The practice of creating landfills**
- B. The return of discarded materials back into the community**
- C. The halting of all waste production**
- D. The mixing of different waste types**

'Closed loop' in waste management specifically refers to the practice of returning discarded materials back into the community. This concept emphasizes the importance of recycling and reusing materials to minimize waste and reduce the need for new resources. A closed loop system works towards sustainability by ensuring that materials are continuously cycled back into use rather than being disposed of in landfills or incinerated. By reintegrating these materials into the community, we can conserve natural resources, lower environmental impact, and create a more sustainable and circular economy. This approach stands in contrast to waste methods that involve disposal without consideration for reuse or recycling.