



The Scale and the Challenge

The Javits Center spans over **3.3 million square feet**, roughly the size of 60 football fields.

With millions walking through their doors annually and hundreds of major events, Javits Center produces thousands of tons of waste. Managing this waste effectively while ensuring a seamless event experience is a challenge of scale, complexity, and innovation. Each event brings its own materials, timelines, and operational needs—and with them, new waste streams. Electronics, lithium-ion batteries, hazardous packaging, organic waste, and mixed recyclables all flow through the same space, often within a 24-hour window.

The amount of cardboard recycled in a single year at Javits Center could **cover the entire length of Manhattan if laid flat.**

The shift to more responsible waste management isn't just numbers on a spreadsheet—it's **visible, measurable, and impactful.**

Javits had a vision to turn a complex system into a model for sustainable operations and RTS was there to help them execute that vision.

2022 - 2024 TOTAL WASTE CALCULATED



9.24 tons
Electronic Waste



57.06 tons
Scrap Metal



679.64 tons
Cardboard

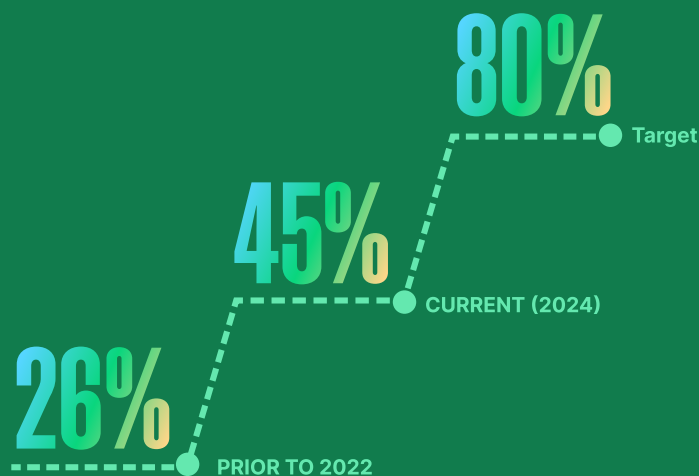


4590.09 tons
Trash (non-recyclable items)



Javits Center has taken on the waste challenge head first, using reduction as a driving metric for progress and impact.

Javits Center has transformed waste diversion from a goal into a system. Together with RTS, they've tackled the complexity of large-scale events, by using data to create clear protocols and monthly reporting that address unpredictable waste streams, tight turnarounds, and varied vendor needs. RTS provides the data that turns into action and keeps progress measurable as Javits Center works to meet their waste diversion goals.



Efficient logistics and safe waste handling are non-negotiable at a venue of this scale.



Proactive & Predictive Planning Javits Center and RTS work together to forecast waste volume and type in advance, preventing backups before they start.



Specialized Safety Training Javits Center staff receive ongoing training from RTS on handling hazardous materials, including e-waste and lithium-ion batteries.



Cleaner Air, Smarter Hauls Optimized truck pickups reduce emissions and limit the impact of waste transport on city air quality.



Operational success and sustainability doesn't happen by accident. **It's built system-by-system, innovative infrastructure and strategic collaborations working in sync.**

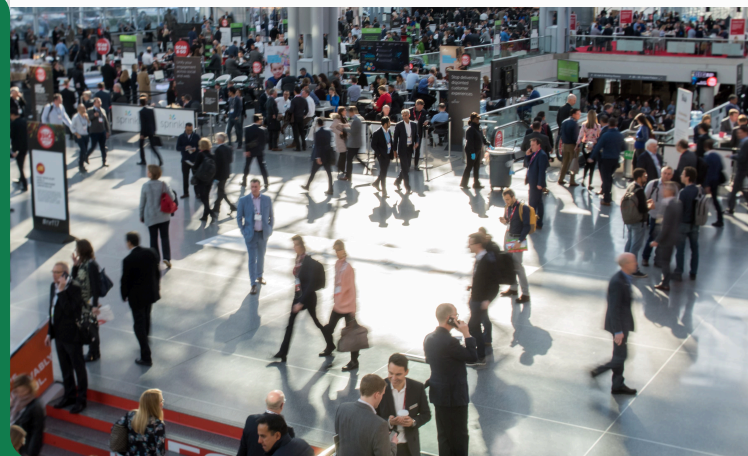
Javits Center evolved from reactive waste handling to predictive, data-driven resource management, with the assistance of RTS. Leveraging RTS's expertise, Javits Center designed journeys for the different waste streams beginning with the customer.



It takes a network of committed stakeholders to build a best-in-class sustainability program. Javits is showing how data and innovation, backed by collaboration, can redefine what's possible.

Ross Guberman

SVP, Sustainability, Recycle Track Systems



Make space for smarter e-waste management.

Efficient systems start with intentional design. At Javits Center, a dedicated e-waste collection room was created to support the safe, organized handling of electronics. From light fixtures and batteries to broken monitors and cords, e-waste takes many forms, and each requires proper sorting and care.

The space was designed to make responsible disposal easier for staff and vendors, while meeting regulatory requirements. By creating room for the process, Javits Center and RTS turned a complex waste stream into a streamlined part of daily operations.



E-waste is **2%** of landfills but **70% of toxic waste.**

Javits Center chooses certified vendors to ensure safe, responsible and audited disposal.

*Data not specific to the Javits Center was sourced from the EPA

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Proper e-waste disposal protects both public health and the environment. The Javits Center's consistent review ensures these standards are met and sets an example for the industry.

Chloe Fisher

Sustainability Consultant, RTS

The circular economy is a shift from a **take → make → waste** model to one where materials are **recycled, reused, repurposed**, and kept in circulation as long as possible.

At Javits Center, this includes turning non-rigid plastic into outdoor decking or transforming food waste into energy and compost. These practices reduce costs, lower emissions, and make smarter use of materials already on hand. By designing for reuse, collaborating with material recovery vendors, and clearly labeling collection points, Javits Center began closing the loop.



Did You Know?

The Javits Center hosts more than 120 events per year.

JOINING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

From Wrap to Recovery

Managing this complexity safely requires predictive planning, staff training, and adaptive systems. RTS supports Javits Center by anticipating waste flow, coordinating logistics to prevent bottlenecks, and reducing unnecessary hauls. Specialized training in safe handling of electronics, e-waste, and hazardous materials ensures that staff can respond confidently to high-risk items, especially as new materials emerge from tech-heavy events. As events evolve, so do the materials they leave behind.

Javits Center began separating plastic wrap from oversized displays and pallets. This simple shift kept bulky plastic out of landfill and set the stage for expanded recovery efforts across future events. What started with a single use case is now a recurring play in the sustainability playbook.

THE RESULTS

7+ tons of plastic

diverted from landfill in 2024

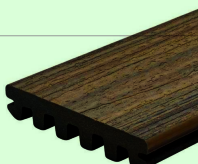
\$2,000+ rebate

sent back to Javits



Repurposed into plastic lumber

for decking and outdoor furniture through NexTrex.



Javits By The Numbers

Through innovative waste management initiatives, Javits Center has made significant strides in reducing landfill contributions and increasing recycling efforts. From cutting overall trash volume to boosting food waste processing and down-cycling soft plastics, these improvements demonstrate a clear commitment to sustainability.

Good for Business, Good for the Planet

The Javits Center, one of the busiest convention centers in North America, is demonstrating that **sustainability is not just an environmental responsibility but a smart business strategy.**

By prioritizing **waste reduction, resource efficiency, and operational improvements**, Javits Center has shown that sustainability efforts can lead to tangible financial and operational benefits.

In collaboration with **Recycle Track Systems (RTS)**, Javits Center has redefined how large-scale venues manage waste, increase diversion rates, and implement forward-thinking sustainability practices.

By pioneering innovative waste management strategies, Javits Center is not just reducing its environmental impact; it's setting a new industry standard that venues across the country can adopt.

15%



reduction in overall trash volume from 2022 to 2024, equivalent to eliminating nearly 236 garbage trucks' worth of waste.

12%



increase in food waste diversion, meaning thousands of pounds of food scraps are now converted to energy through WM CORE and Newtown Creek waste water treatment plant.

127%



increase in total recycled materials, with more items finding second lives instead of being discarded.

8.21



tons of soft plastic (visqueen, bubble wrap, shrink wrap) diverted from landfills, enough to produce durable decking for over 50 suburban homes.

