



## TRUE CERTIFICATION & TRUE ADVISOR SERVICES

### WHAT IS TRUE CERTIFICATION?

TRUE (Total Resource Use and Efficiency) is a zero waste certification program for businesses to **document and assess performance in reducing waste, maximizing resource efficiency, and championing highest and best use of resources**. The TRUE Certification is administered by Green Business™ Certification, Inc. (GBCI – home of LEED and related environmental and sustainability certifications).

Through the TRUE certification program, facilities define, pursue, document, and achieve their zero waste goals, reducing their carbon footprint and supporting public health.



### TRUE CERTIFICATION SCOPE

The TRUE certification consists of a review of physical facilities and operations within a single property boundary. One or more facilities/buildings within a property constitute the “project” for purposes of certification. As such, TRUE certification is not applicable organization wide. Additionally, the requirements for TRUE certification are NOT required to be met across ALL facilities within an organization.

Materials included in the evaluation for certification include all solid, non-hazardous discards generated within the project boundaries. Limited consideration of hazardous wastes and liquid wastes is given, and wastewater is excluded.

### DOES YOUR FACILITY QUALIFY FOR TRUE CERTIFICATION?



To qualify for TRUE certification, a project must meet these seven minimum criteria:

1. Zero waste policy in place
2. Achieved an average 90%+ diversion from disposal (landfill, incineration, waste-to-energy, and the environment) for solid, non-hazardous wastes in the most recent 12 months
3. Meet all applicable solid waste and recycling laws and regulations, and complies with all discharge permits for collection, handling, and processing of materials
4. Data documenting a base year of waste diversion data, and measurements since the base year adjusting for changes in size, type and nature of business
5. Less than 10% contamination for any materials leaving the site
6. Annual submission of 12 months of diversion data to keep certification current
7. Submits case study of zero waste initiatives

Additionally, a project must achieve at least 31 points (out of a possible 81 points) on the TRUE Zero Waste scorecard. Points are awarded in areas including:

- ▶ Redesign
- ▶ Reduction
- ▶ Reuse
- ▶ Compost (Re-Earth)
- ▶ Recycle
- ▶ Zero Waste Reporting
- ▶ Diversion from Landfill, Incineration (WTE), and Environment
- ▶ Zero Waste Purchasing
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Zero Waste Analysis
- ▶ Upstream Management
- ▶ Hazardous Waste Prevention
- ▶ Closed Loop
- ▶ Innovation



## TRUE ADVISOR

### HOW CAN APTIM SUPPORT TRUE CERTIFICATION?

APTIM's team of professionals includes TRUE Advisors™, trained and certified by GBCI to assist projects to obtain their TRUE certification.

APTIM can support facilities exploring TRUE certification to:

- ▶ Review and document existing processes generating discards and discard management practices
- ▶ Audit and characterize existing discard composition and identify diversion alternatives
- ▶ Develop baseline waste and diversion quantity data and establish ongoing tracking programs
- ▶ Prepare documentation that satisfies certification requirements for each applicable credit
- ▶ Coordinate with waste and recycling haulers and facility procurement staff to procure or right-size collection services and restructure waste and recycling contracts to align with zero waste principles
- ▶ Collaborate with facility team/departments to document existing policies and procedures that align with TRUE Zero Waste scorecard credits
- ▶ Develop and implement training for zero waste practices and performance monitoring, including hands-on training in waste handling BMPs for facility staff and/or management (i.e., train-the-trainer)
- ▶ Prepare TRUE certification application and facilitate application review and submittal process

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