

OWU Composting Project (November 2nd, 2021) Dmitri Ashakih and John Krygier

Objective: Create a food waste management system that will collect an estimated 2,000 pounds of pre-consumer food waste from Marketplace/Smith cafeteria and 35 pounds of post-consumer food waste from SLU's and transport the waste to Price Farm's Organics.

Details:

- Two individuals will be hired to collect the food waste from Marketplace and Smith cafeteria in the morning and in the afternoon every day (Marketplace does not need a pickup when it is closed on the weekends.)
- The food waste in the SLU's will be collected twice a week.
- Each SLU will need one five-gallon bucket with an airtight lid
- University vehicles will need to be used for transportation to Price Farm's Organics, as they will be transporting at least 285 pounds of waste a day. Gas intake will need to be recorded for emission data.
- According to Price Farms Organics, one ton of food waste costs \$30 to drop off with a minimum of \$50 per drop-off.

Predicted Driving Route (Exact AM and PM times to be determined)

- AM: Waste will need to be collected from the SLU's (only Monday and Friday morning), Marketplace (only weekdays), Smith Cafeteria (everyday), and stored in a location that is away from residential areas/ within food safety regulations until the second round of collections in the afternoon.
- PM: Food waste is collected from Marketplace (only weekdays) and Smith cafeteria (everyday), driver picks up AM food waste from the secure location, loads it into the truck with the PM food waste, and drops it off at Price Farms Organics.
- Price Farms Organics requests that driver stay on site to help sort for contaminants (if there are contaminants, additional fees will be added to the overall total)

Support and Funding

- We propose meeting with representatives of AVI to discuss support and funding for this effort, as well as logistics and longer-term sustainability.
- The new Department of Environment & Sustainability has some funds for student work, and we propose exploring ways to co-fund labor for this composting effort with AVI and ABM / B&G (transportation).
- We have provided labor for similar projects (worm composting) in the past by arranging an Activity Course. This would require a person (not a student) to teach the course.
- It may be possible to get a SLU or student organization to adopt this program as a means to longer-term viability.
- Non-labor costs could be covered by an OWU Connection Small Grants Program grant.