

# Aaron Durnbaugh

## Loyola University Chicago



**Aaron Durnbaugh is the Director of Sustainability for Loyola University Chicago** having previously served as the Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources and Water Quality at the City of Chicago. At Loyola, Aaron builds innovation and efficiency into the University's programs and student experience focusing on water protection, energy conservation and mission-driven sustainability action.

# Quantifying Waste Reduction Efforts

Loyola University Chicago's  
Cut the Cardboard –  
Reusable Toter Program



# Introduction to Loyola University

An aerial photograph of Chicago, Illinois, showing the city's grid pattern and the Lake Michigan coastline. Three red stars are placed on the map to indicate the locations of Loyola University's campuses: one in the western part of the city, one in the downtown area near the lake, and one in the northern part of the city.

- 15,902 students
  - 14,613 full time equivalents
- 4.3 million square feet
- 3 primary campuses and 5 academic centers
- Chicago's Jesuit University

# Waste Management – Split Responsibilities



## Facilities Department

- Oversees housekeeping contracted staff
- Maintains waste-hauling contract
- Provides funding for waste & composting interns

## Office of Sustainability

- Compiles waste tracking
- Provides information resources and outreach
- Oversees waste and composting interns

# Waste Reduction Initiative

In 2013, Primary office supply vendor, Warehouse Direct, offered to eliminate cardboard packaging

Purchasing Department and Sustainability Office partnered to share the news with Purchasing Officers in each Department / Unit

Cardboard packaging was eliminated and replaced with reusable containers

- Large deliveries come in reusable totes
- Small deliveries come in durable plastic sleeves

Reusable containers are often sent back directly with delivery staff or kept and returned with next delivery



# WRI - Impacts

- **Estimated cost savings (WD)**
  - 320 deliveries per month
  - \$.48 cents per carton (\$.35 box, \$.10 labor, \$.03 tape)
  - Toters cost \$12-15 but can be used ~250 times
    - Just need to be used >30 times to break even
  - \$1,600 savings annually (~\$800 net savings)
- **Estimated waste savings (LUC)**
  - 3,840 boxes = ~1.3 lbs per box = 5,000 lbs per year of cardboard
  - Plus packaging material

# Other Waste Reductions Initiatives

- **Dining Halls**
  - Tray-free dining (2011)
  - Plate-size reduction (2011)
- **Vendor Fair (ongoing)**
- **Water Bottle Ban (2012)**
- **Plastic Bag Ban (2014)**
- **Producer Responsibility Take-backs (ongoing)**
  - Information Technology, Residence Life Furniture
- **Digitization (2010 – 2014)**

# Other Waste Reductions Initiatives

## •Outreach

- Zero-waste Events
- Residence Life Programming

## •Community Initiatives

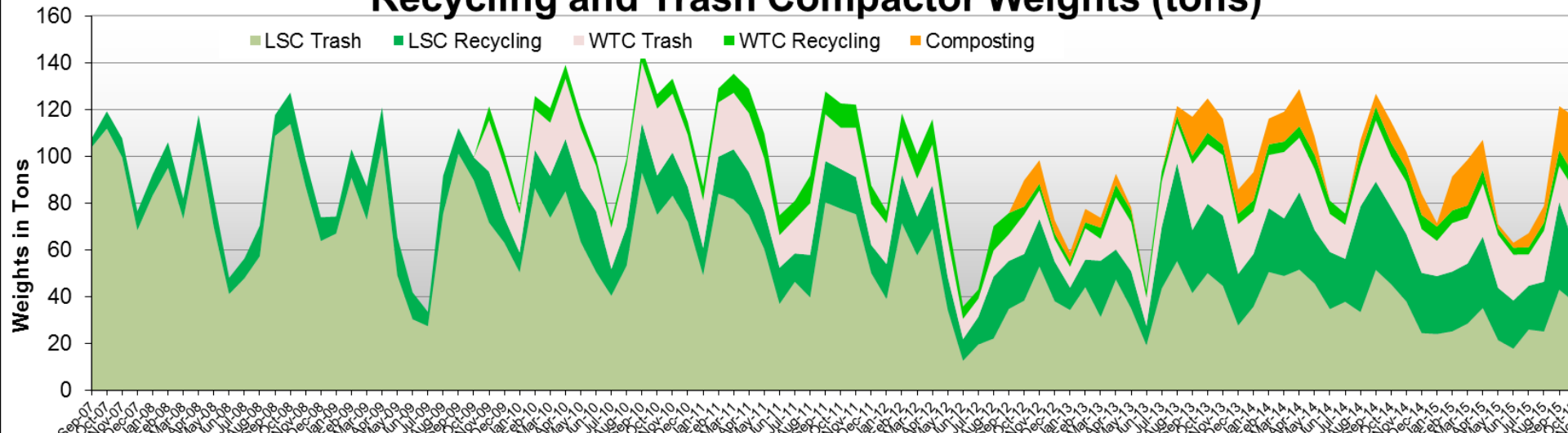
- Compost Collection Network (pictured)
- Biodiesel





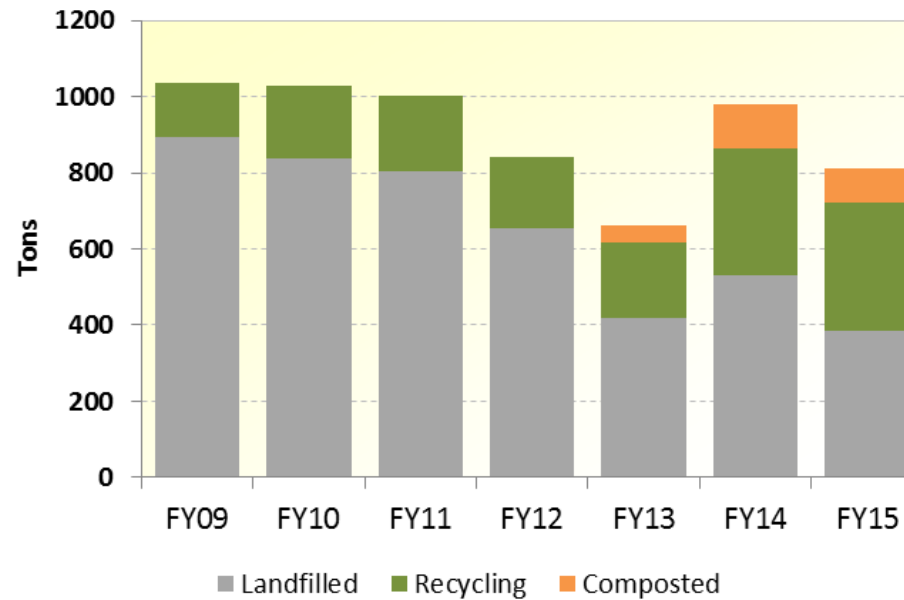
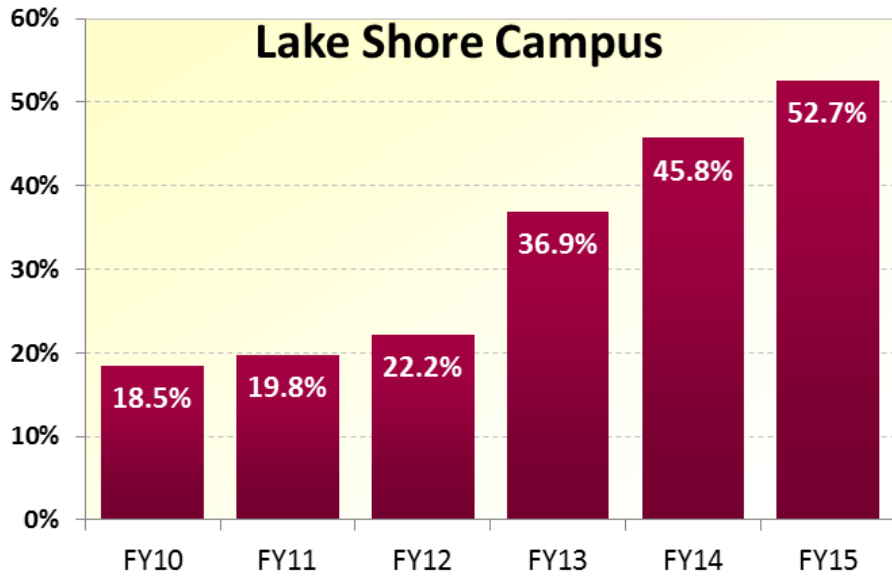
# Campus Impacts

## Recycling and Trash Compactor Weights (tons)



# Campus Impacts

## Lake Shore Campus



# Thank you

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**For more information visit [LUC.edu/SustainLoyola](http://LUC.edu/SustainLoyola)**

**For our Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and  
Rating System Report visit [www.stars.aashe.org](http://www.stars.aashe.org)**

