

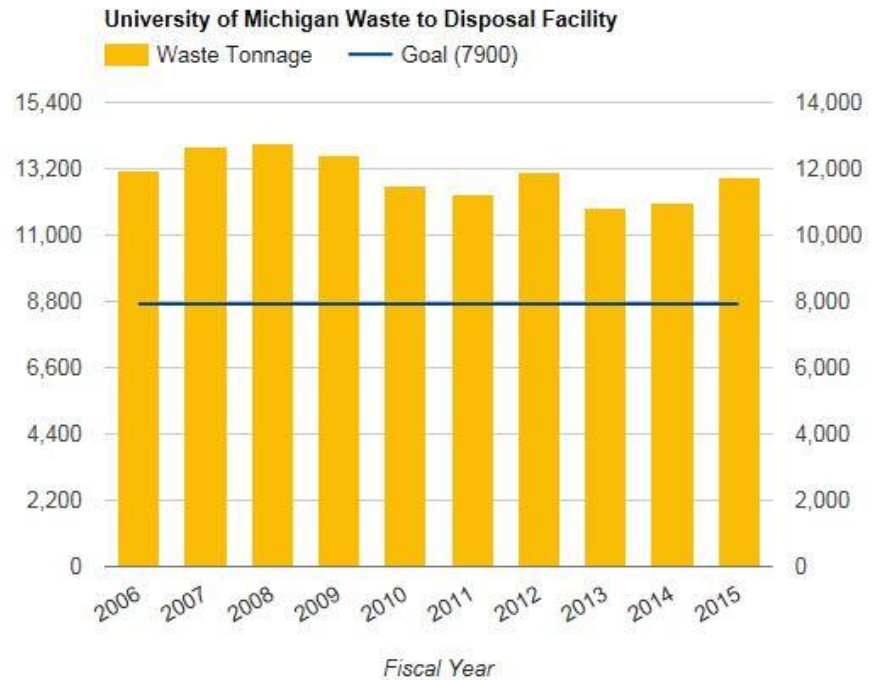


Organic Waste Management at the University of Michigan



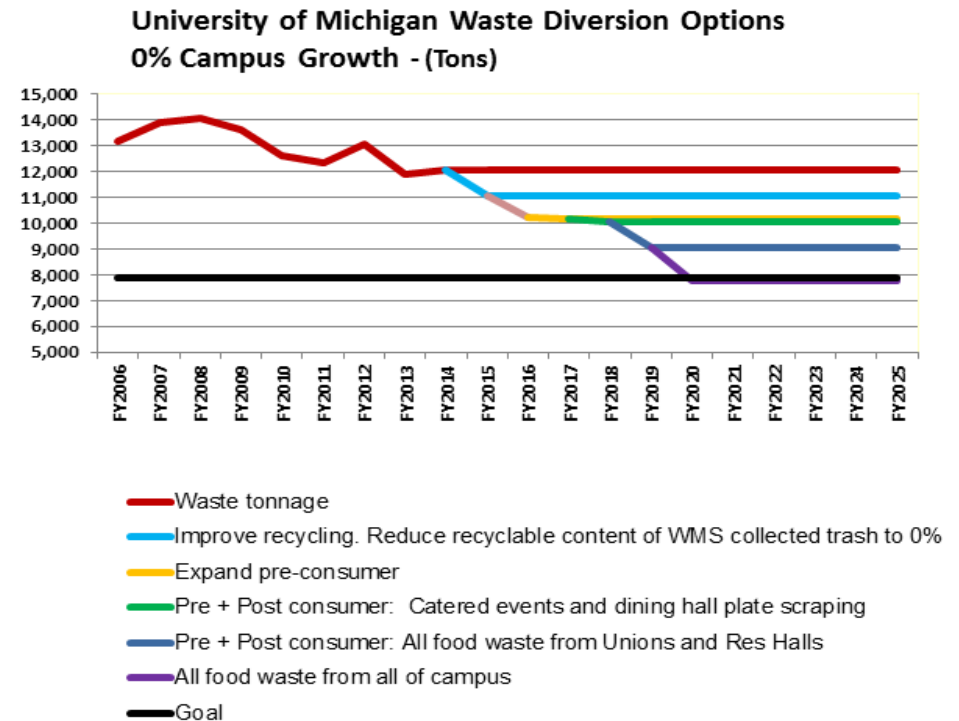
Waste Reduction Goal: Reduce waste going to landfill by 40% of 2006 level by 2025.

- Challenges of growing campus
- Steady recycling rate on campus
- Recycling alone won't get us there!
- ~35% of campus waste sent to landfill is compostable material!



Implementing University-wide Organics Composting

- Pre & post-consumer food waste from dining facilities picked up and taken to WeCare Organics offsite.
- Promoting an institutionalized and expanded zero waste events program.
- Potential 30%-40% contribution to the waste reduction goal.



Residential Dining

- Pre-consumer and post consumer
 - reusable
 - collected in back of house
 - communication to avoid contamination
- Smaller portions, plated dining
- Trayless dining since 2011
- Repurposing food into next meal
- Food Recovery Network
 - Volunteer-lead
 - Recovered nearly 11,000 tons of food



Dear humans sending
tons of uneaten food
to the dump each year:
THANK YOU,
The seagulls



Skip the tray. Cut the waste.

Composting in Res Hall Rooms

Goals:

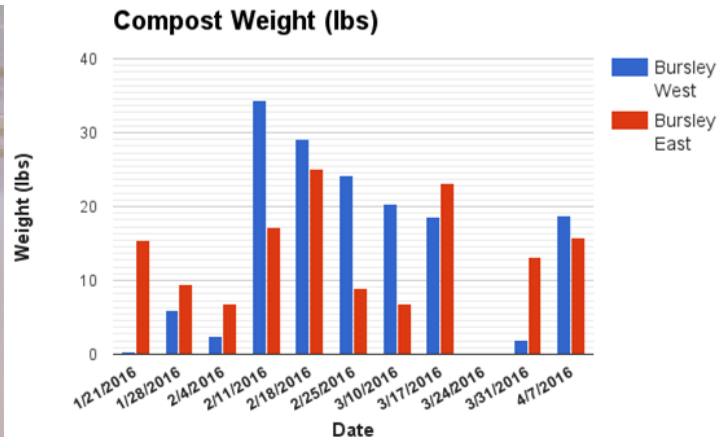
- Integrating composting bins for post-consumer composting
- Tracking compost
- Spreading the project to other residence halls

Challenges

- Communication
- Contamination
- Ants

Successes

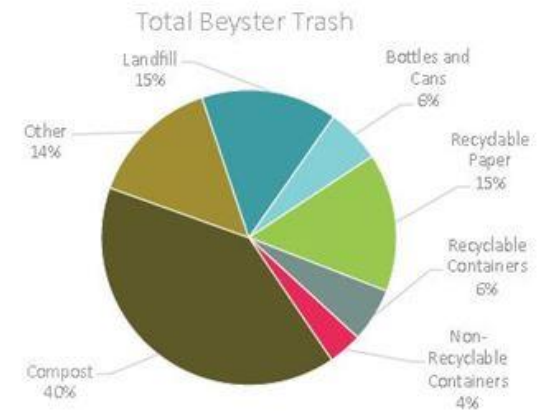
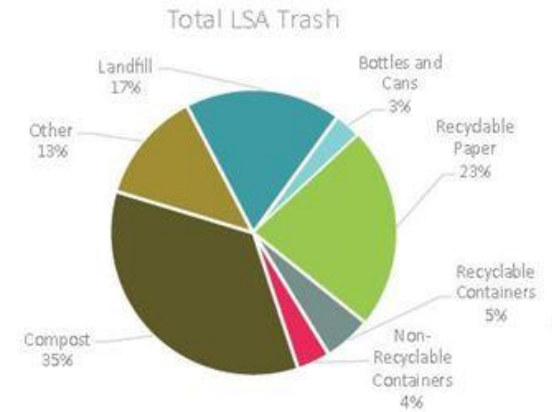
- Positive responses from custodial staff and facilities
- Amount of waste composted



Two-Building Waste Audit

NON-food service buildings:

- Signage and labeling
 - Poor signage - contamination rate: 15%
 - Good signage - contamination rate: 5%
- 22% of waste was incorrectly placed
- **37% of trash stream is suitable for compost**



Presidential Working Committees

Waste Reduction Committee:

- Establish university-wide bin and signage standards
- **Implement university-wide organics composting program**
- Complete a detailed study of UMHS waste stream



Culture of Sustainability

- Implement uniform and consistent recycling bin and signage
- **Institutionalize composting for zero waste events, dedicated departments, and dining services.**
- Institutional support for sustainable procurement (including avoiding single-use items)
- Zero Waste Football

Zero Waste Football



2016

- Testing materials, working with vendors to switch to compostable and recyclable packaging options
- Game day waste sort

2017

- Goal of making stadium Zero Waste

Zero Waste Program

Expand existing program and services

Increased resources for more technical and financial assistance

Address compostable waste currently going to landfill and reduce use of disposables on campus

Educate campus about expanding composting programs / initiatives

Encourage offices to establish ongoing composting service for events



Compost
When in doubt, throw it out

food waste

compostable ware

coffee grounds & filters

napkins

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For more information, visit
recycle.umich.edu

Zero Waste Program - Resources

- Zero Waste Program Guide

 - Place work order for compost services
 - How to work with vendors and caterers
 - Event planning checklist
 - Day of event checklist

- Trainings for event planners and volunteers

- Talking points and templates

- Promotional material

- Email for assistance zerowaste@umich.edu

U-M Zero Waste Guide

Simple steps toward making your event Zero Waste.



In 2011 the University of Michigan established a goal to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill by 40% below the 2006 baseline by 2025. Estimates indicate approximately 40% of what is being sent to landfills is compostable material—even in buildings without food service!

The largest program underway to compost food on campus is led by Michigan Dining who is working diligently to institute pre- and post-consumer composting in all residential hall and Union dining facilities. Fortunately, there is growing interest in and momentum for composting across campus even in non-food service areas. This interest in composting has increased, as evident by the overall weight of compost collected from Zero Waste events increasing from 168 tons in FY14 to over 226 tons in FY15. A program led by the Student Sustainability Initiative (SSI) has also seen growing success in providing compostable dishware and compost collection for student events.

The strengthening enthusiasm for composting from both students and staff is accompanied by a need for greater resources to assist in the planning and implementation of zero-waste events on campus.

The intent of the Zero Waste Program is to achieve as much waste diversion from the landfill as possible.

This includes reduction of waste and use of recycling and composting. Zero Waste events should avoid the use of plasticware, plan for and utilize available compost systems, and educate the campus community on best practices to reduce waste.

This guide will provide a task checklist, give further information based on event size and type (student, staff/faculty, catering), and consolidate resources to be more user-friendly.



Get Involved

Planet Blue Ambassadors

Student Groups

Project Funding

Workplace Initiatives

Recurring Events

Zero Waste Events

Zero Waste Program

In 2011 the University of Michigan established a goal to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by 40% below the 2006 baseline by 2025.

As 35-40% of our landfilled waste is compostable, leadership has made a strong commitment to expanding food waste composting on campus. Increasing efforts to divert compostable material supports the waste reduction goal and helps create a culture of sustainability.

A **zero waste** event is any one-time program, occasion or event where the goal is to achieve as much waste diversion from the landfill as possible. A zero waste event works to reduce, recycle and compost as much as possible.

Composting at campus events is becoming increasingly popular among students, faculty and staff. The overall weight of compost collected by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Office (WRRO) has increased significantly, from 168 tons in FY 14, to over 226 tons in FY 15.

The **Zero Waste Program**, a collaboration between the Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) and WRRO, provides technical assistance and resources to units, departments and groups to reduce compostable waste being landfilled.

The Zero Waste Program offers a number of resources to help your event be successful, including a [Zero Waste Composting Guide](#). Contact us as soon as possible to tell us about your event so that we can assure your event will be successful.

The Zero Waste Program is open to all on the U-M Ann Arbor Campus. To start planning for composting at your event, follow these steps:

- 1) Review the [Zero Waste Composting Guide](#)
- 2) Submit the [POCC work order](#) (instructions can be found in the guide)
- 3) For assistance in making your events zero waste:

Staff: email zerowaste@umich.edu

Students: email ssi-board@umich.edu

To increase the program reach and impact, an expanded zero waste events program will be phased in across campus. Early phases will focus on locations with existing composting programs, including buildings with food service or that frequently host events. Buildings that currently have compost bins for events will also be included. Once vetted through these locations, the program will be expanded to include locations that have Sustainable Workplace Program certification or a Planet Blue Ambassador committed to educating other staff and planning and coordinating recurring events.

Questions? Contact us at zerowaste@umich.edu



Program Roll-out

- Phase I:
 - University Unions & MCatering
- Phase II:
 - Efficiency and expansion in buildings with existing compost service
- Phase III:
 - Sustainable workplaces
 - Targeting key stakeholders, high-profile and high-impact events



Zero Waste Program

Recurring events:

- Technical assistance, training as well as collapsible bins, liners and signage
- Assistance setting up compost collection service
- Linking to Sustainable Workplace Certification Program

One-time events:

- Technical assistance, training, compostable ware
- Signage / promotion and marketing



What Is a Zero Waste Event?

A **Zero Waste Event** is any occasion where the goal is to achieve as much waste diversion as possible

The 2011 UM Sustainability Goal aims to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to disposal facilities by 40% by 2025



- 35% of U-M waste could be composted.
- Much of this comes from university events.
- Let's work together to reduce U-M's waste!

Michigan Catering can help you make your event Zero Waste by offering:



Reusable, recyclable, or compostable items



Menus that avoid single-serve items



Compost bins in front or back of house



Signage for Customers

Questions?

To find out more about these services / packages, visit <http://dining.umich.edu/about/sustainability/>

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Let's work together to reduce U-M's waste!

The goal of a Zero Waste Event is to achieve as much waste diversion from the landfill as possible via reduction, recycling, and compost.



The 2011 UM Sustainability Goal aims to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to disposal facilities by 40% by 2025

What is a Zero Waste Event?

This is a Zero Waste Event

The 2011 UM Sustainability Goal aims to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to disposal facilities by 40% by 2025



- 35% of U-M waste could be composted.
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Zero Waste Event

This event aims to reduce waste at every point possible by using recyclable and compostable materials.

You are helping to divert at least 90 % of this event's waste from the landfill.

How does it work?



Why does this matter?

Zero Waste events support U-M's goal to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by 40% by 2025.



- ▶ 35% of U-M waste could be composted.
- ▶ Much of this comes from university events.

Make your next event Zero Waste

- ▶ Review the *Zero Waste Events Composting Guide*
- ▶ Submit the POC work order (instructions in the guide)
- ▶ Complete the application form for assistance

Let's work together to reduce U-M's waste!

questions? ... ▶ email us at zerowaste@umich.edu

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Commitment

- Advanced planning to avoid waste
- Communication with vendor / caterer
- Verify materials onsite
- Trained volunteers



Engaging All Stakeholders

Internal & External Customers

- Customer service
- Engagement & education

Capital / Infrastructure

- collection system
- transportation system

Operations

- Many levels of engagement
- Departmental participation
- Custodial
- Waste management

Importance of Feedback

- Addressing contamination
- continual improvement of process & communication



Questions?

Anya Dale, Sustainability Rep.

anyadale@umich.edu

University of Michigan

Office of Campus Sustainability