

Food Waste Diversion in Businesses - In Action!

Organic recycling is simply another type of recycling - transforming the waste so it can be reused as a soil amendment and does not clutter our landfills.

How does waste management at a business work?

Most businesses contract with a waste management company to deal with their waste, unlike homeowners who have municipal pickup of their waste. Companies pay based on the volume and frequency of pickup.



In this picture: This business has two dumpsters of compost that are picked up by Waste Neutral. A Waste Neutral truck collects the compost.

This business still has trash and recycling pick up, although the trash pickup is less frequent than it was when trash was both trash and organic waste.

These green bags are compostable, but keep the waste contained.

Organic waste is brought to an organics recycling facility. This bill allows businesses to decide where to send it. The bill is triggered if there is a recycling facility with capacity within 30 miles, but does not mandate that the business send the waste there. They could deal with it onsite, send it to a farm for animal feed, send it to a different organics recycling facility, donate the waste, or reduce their waste below the triggering threshold.



In this picture: The truck brings the waste to a compost facility. It is largely handled just like trash, the only thing that is different is that the waste is sent to a different bin.

When the waste is made into compost, it sequesters the carbon - reducing our carbon footprint!

The Practicalities of Two Bins



In this photo: students send their compost into the green bin. Adding compost to this cafeteria simply required a second bin that gets dumped into its own dumpster.

Signage can be used to convey what goes in the compost bin. Below is an example from the University of Maryland College Park.



In this picture: In this kitchen, the bin next to the cutting station is a compost bin. Instead of throwing organic waste into mixed trash, organic waste is separated into the compost bin.

Since most waste in a kitchen is organic waste (food, paper towels, paper), compost bins can easily replace mixed trash. A small mixed trash bin can still be used.

HB264 diverts waste from going unnecessarily into landfills or incinerators, but allows flexibility so businesses can find the right fit!