

Abstract

The Office of Campus Sustainability is leading Wayne State University's Compost Pilot, a program which is distinct from those seen at other universities as it implements a closed-loop food system. The program involves the collection and delivery of compostable materials from campus to a nearby urban farm, Georgia Street Community Collective. From there, the farm controls the composting process to produce finished compost, which is then used to grow food on the farm and is brought back to the University for use in landscaping and the campus greenhouse. The program is maintained by Office of Campus Sustainability staff and student ambassadors, Compost Warriors, in conjunction with GSCC.

The program launched its Waste Recovery Station in the Spring of 2021. These pop-ups in different locations throughout the Midtown area have the goal of making waste reduction practices easy and accessible to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Because of its interactive and hands-on nature, these pop-ups allowed for an engaging educational experience that looks into contamination and how it affects the composting and recycling processes. When participants dropped-off their materials, one of our team members weighed the recyclable and compostable materials and recorded how much waste each participant had diverted.