

UI Composting system design and pilot

This project will develop and implement technologies to improve the effectiveness of a newly started composting system at UI. The goal is to integrate food waste from campus dining with carcass composting in the area behind the UI Dairy. Much additional organic waste is produced by UI, which provides potential feed stocks for future expansion, but short-term efforts need to incorporate the food waste and animal carcasses as a minimum, with the potential to expand into a broader composting program in the future.

The students will collect data, analyze feed stocks, research options, and develop the best, customized system to meet UI's composting needs within allocated budgets. The preference is that as much of the system will be completed as possible during the project and that the design accommodates additional updates as more funds becomes available.

Preliminary estimates based on student conducted waste sorts estimate about 100 tons of compostable waste (. 1 margin of error) from Campus Dining. A waste analysis was completed by Tom Nagawiecki spring 2009 and a food waste sampling project was completed 2007-2008. These reports are available through the UI Sustainability Center.

The Dairy has two type of manure available as feedstock: straight liquid manure and manure mixed with straw and wood chips. In addition, wood chips, steam plant ash and other feed stocks are available if needed for the composting mix.

Right now we are expecting a budget of approximately \$10,000-\$12,000.

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