



## 2021 Campus Race to Zero Waste Case Study Competition

### Indiana University Purdue University - Indianapolis

1. Contact info (name, department, school, email, phone)

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2. Focus of Case study

The Riverwalk Composting Pilot Program is a student-led initiative focusing on empowering residents at Riverwalk Apartments to compost their food waste.

3. Detailed description of campaign or effort:

The Riverwalk Compost Pilot Program was a dream of the students of IUPUI long before the fall of 2020, however, smell, storage, and labor were constant hurdles they faced. Sustainability representative, Amber Greaney, then designed a program where Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) funded a private local company, Earth Mama Compost, to collect the food waste of the Riverwalk Apartment residents. First, a detailed funding proposal passed in GPSG. Then we addressed operational concerns with IUPUI's facilities team. Storage: the bins would be kept at IUPUI Sustainability. Smell: the compost bags will be kept in the refrigerator when full and bins will be often cleaned. Labor: the outside totes will be picked up by Earth Mama Compost thus having no burden on the team. Permission was then granted from IUPUI Housing. From there, IUPUI Sustainability took responsibility for all communication, educational materials, supplies, and operational management.

The pilot was officially launched the first week of April 2021. IUPUI Sustainability and RHA curated the compost packages, students received them through the Riverwalk mailroom, and began composting! The residents kept the countertop sized compost bin lined with compostable bags in their residential unit. From there, they fill the bags, tie them up, and place them outside in a designated toter for food waste provided by Earth Mama Compost. The students also had the option to put full compost bags in their freezer if they were to wait until pick up day to put the bags outside. This would eliminate smell in their apartment unit.

This first-ever residential compost program at IUPUI has allowed students to become educated on the importance of composting, engage in sustainability hands-on, and feel empowered through taking their carbon footprint into their own hands with further plans to run the full program in the fall of 2021.

#### 4. Planning steps & timeline to implement:

*Laying the Groundwork: 3 months, October 2020 - December 2020*

- Student-drive passion
  - Fully formulated by students
- Vendor Identification
  - A local, woman-owned business: Earth Mama Compost
- Funding/proposal
  - GPSG allotted \$2,000 for operations and marketing materials

*Addressing Operational Concerns: 1 month, January 2021*

- Labor
  - Earth Mama Compost will pick up outside totes
- Storage
  - IUPUI Sustainability will store the small bins during breaks
- Smell
  - No smell due to the compost bags
- Program Management
  - IUPUI Sustainability will cover all management

*Pilot Program Management: 2 months, February 2021 - March 2021*

- Communication
  - Attract attention
- Education
  - Inform participants
- Supplies
  - Accumulate necessary materials
- Operational Management
  - Facilitate all operational aspects

#### 5. Resources and stakeholders involved

*Graduate and Professional Student Government*

- Provided detailed outline of budget sheet
- Passed on funding allotment to IUPUI Sustainability
- \$2,000 for a semester of pick ups

*Earth Mama Compost*

- Supplying small compost bins for students and small bags for food waste
- Supplying 3 large outdoor totes to be placed next to trash dumpster
- Pick up 3 outdoor compost totes every two weeks
- Provide weights/data for the 3 outdoor totes at the end of each month
- Send invoice to IUPUI Sustainability

### *Residence Hall Association*

- Supply reusable bags and magnets
- Aid IUPUI Sustainability deliver compost bins to Riverwalk Apartments mailroom

### *IUPUI Sustainability*

- Create marketing flyer for social media
- Send out google form for students to sign up
- Create mass email list based on google form
  - *See attached document*
- Create educational materials
  - Webinar on Composting 101 to live on the IUPUI Sustainability website
    - *See attached video*
  - Composting Pocket Guide
    - Lives on the IUPUI Sustainability website
    - *See attached document*
  - *A Guide to Composting Flyer*
    - Printed out on regular 8x10 printer paper
    - Given to students when they first get their bins
    - Students put it on their refrigerator with magnet
    - *See attached document*
- Formulate package for students
  - Reusable bag
  - Magnet
  - Flyer
  - Compost countertop bin
  - Compost bags
- Construct welcome email
- Deliver package to Riverwalk Apartment mailroom
- Evaluate outside toter bins for signs of contamination each week
- Send reminder email for pickup dates
- Pay Earth Mama Compost bill
- Main point of contact for all campus and community partners involved

## 6. Describe the Results of this campaign component

- a. General results (*ex: attracted attention of campus president, campus paper did a news story on the event, etc.*)
  - i. Featured in *IUPUI Sustainability Newsletter*
    1. *See attached link*
  - ii. Featured in *IUPIU Jagnews*
    1. *See attached link*
  - iii. Invited to present at the *Indiana Recycling Coalition 2021 Virtual Conference: Reimagining the 3 Rs: Resources, Responsibility, and Resiliency* (June 8th - June 10th)
    1. Delivering a 20 minute presentation with a detailed outline of the Riverwalk Compost Program with the goal that other universities could replicate it on their campus
    2. *See attached document*
- b. Specific measurable impact figures, if applicable (*Ex: Reduced contamination rate 13%, Gathered 316 pledges to recycle more, etc., 250 people engaged, etc.*)
  - i. 5 different campus and community partners

- ii. 9 students involved in operations
- iii. 3 staff members involved in operation
- iv. 10 apartment units
- v. 14 total students
- vi. 6 pounds per capita in two months
- vii. Contribution to Gold STARS report
- viii. 85 pounds of total food waste diverted from landfill
  - 1. This reduction in emissions from landfill waste equals:
    - a. 79 pounds of CO2 saved *or*
    - b. 94 miles driven by an average passenger vehicle

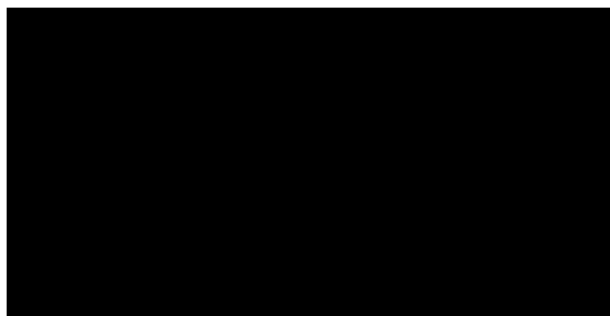
7. What would you do differently in the future?

- a. Streamline communication
- b. Increase outreach/marketing efforts
- c. Standardize receiving and storage of supplies

8. What advice would you give to another college that wanted to do a similar effort?

- a. Begin with pilot program
- b. Develop plan to transition funding from students to the university
- c. Ensure the students are well informed through heavy communication
- d. Evaluate outside toters once a week at the start to avoid contamination or malpractice
- e. Strong relationship building with campus partners, even those in which work is not required of them

9. Photos and Graphics



Google form sign up PDF attached to email.\* Credit: Cristina Padilla

Composting 101 Webinar. Credit: Aspen Grieshaber

Composting Pocket Guide attached to email.\* Credit: Mackenzie Ake and Aspen Grieshaber

## A Guide to Composting

### To compost



- Fruits and vegetables
- Flour, grains, and spices
- Chips, buns & bread
- Nuts and nut shells
- Unbleached coffee filters, paper towels, and napkins
- Tooth picks, used matches, pencil shavings
- Eggs and eggshells
- Rice, beans, and legumes
- Cereal, candy, cookies and cakes
- Coffee grounds/loose tea
- Hair/fur, nail clippings
- Cut flowers, houseplants, out-dated seeds

### To landfill

- Meat, fish, poultry, skin, and bones
- Dairy (cheese, yogurt, milk, etc.)
- Dryer lint, floss, candles
- Gum & cigarette butts
- Pet waste
- Fireplace & BBQ ashes

- Diapers & baby wipes
- Grocery sacks and produce bags
- Non-recyclable food packaging (plastic wrap, foam/foam packaging, rubber bands, twist ties, etc.)



### Okay in small amounts



- Salad with toppings that may include cheese or meat
- Dressings, oils and fats, condiments or sauces
- Vegetable toppings that may include butter or oil

## General Tips



- You can store your compost in the fridge, freezer, or on your counter.
- Food scraps break down faster with heat, moisture, and lack of air, so minimizing these conditions will make for a cleaner experience.
- If you notice fruit flies, microwave any scraps to neutralize these pests and then freeze.
- Keep your food scraps cold for pick-up day by storing them in a fridge or freezer.
- When your compost bag is close to full, tie it up and store in the freezer for pick-up day.
- Place your compost bags in the outdoor bucket for pick-up day.

## Calendar Pickup

January	14	28	July	1	15	29
February	11	25	August	12	26	
March	11	25	September	9	23	
April	8	22	October	7	21	
May	6	20	November	4	18	
June	3	17	December	2	16	

Front: left, Back: right. Composting flyer, credit: Mackenzie Are and Aspen Grieshaber

<https://view.e.iu.edu/?qs=b0ac41b06a90a112851e006b1b0eb4b7fe151742549f6285bb075112f0aa9b65e6af70af1eca42038d57bf95fade1cba867e8aae6cd8a6924e693cf74f12a13be6264a73f117deecf25a79ae4ee6c278>

IUPUI Sustainability Newsletter mention. Credit: Cristina Padilla

<https://studentaffairs.iupui.edu/news/stories/2021-02-09-iupui-introduces-composting-initiative.html>

IUPUI Jagnews Article. Credit: Zach Wadley

IRC Presentation PDF attached to email.\* Credit: Jessica Davis and Aspen Grieshaber

\*Too long to attach to document

Program pictures:



All credit: Aspen Grieshaber

Please email completed **Word** template form and attach supplemental documents (photos, newspaper articles, website links, etc.) to [CR2ZW@nwf.org](mailto:CR2ZW@nwf.org) with "Case Study submission" in the subject line. **Case study submissions are due no later than Monday, May 31, 2021.**