Organics in the Ivory Tower
Lessons in collecting food waste at colleges & universities

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Recycling Coordinator, Yale University
Resourcerer, Better World Magic
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
  - bins
  - bag
  - signage
  - education
  - staff
  - trucks
  - processor
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it

- bins
- bag
- signage
- education
- staff
- trucks
- processor
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it

Perform waste stream analyses. Record edible food, non-edible food, recyclable items, non-recyclable items.
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it

Perform waste stream analyses **take notes & visuals - not just numbers**

  - edible food
  - non-edible food
  - recyclable items
  - non-recyclable
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it

Tailor signs to the event. Use images not just words.

Match hole size and shape the compostable items e.g. plates, & cups
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
- Inspect it

“eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty”
- Andrew Jackson, 1837
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
- Inspect it

“eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty”
- Andrew Jackson, 1837

“eternal vigilance by the recycling staff is the price of a successful organics program”
- CJ May, 2012
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
- Inspect it
- Plan it

Caterer
Menu
Hidden items on menu: ketchup packets?
Sub contracting trouble: non-compostable cups came from other service providers
Day-of: inspect, de-con
Take-home containers
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
- Inspect it
- Plan it
- Institutionalize it

- Develop guidelines
- Codify responsibilities for on-campus and off-campus caterers, facilities, organizers.
- Make it part of all events, not just green events
Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it
- Label it
- Proclaim it
- Inspect it
- Plan it
- Institutionalize it:
  - Show the process beginning to end.

“People care about what they help create.”