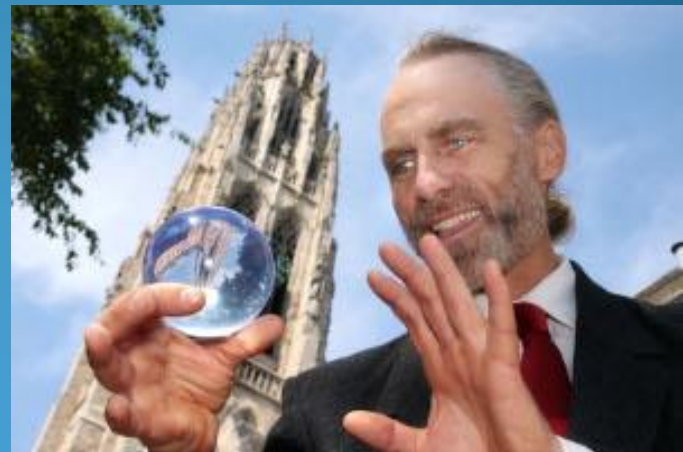


# Organics in the Ivory Tower

Lessons in collecting food waste  
at colleges & universities

CJ May  
Recycling Coordinator, Yale University  
Resourcerer, Better World Magic



# Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it

bins

bag

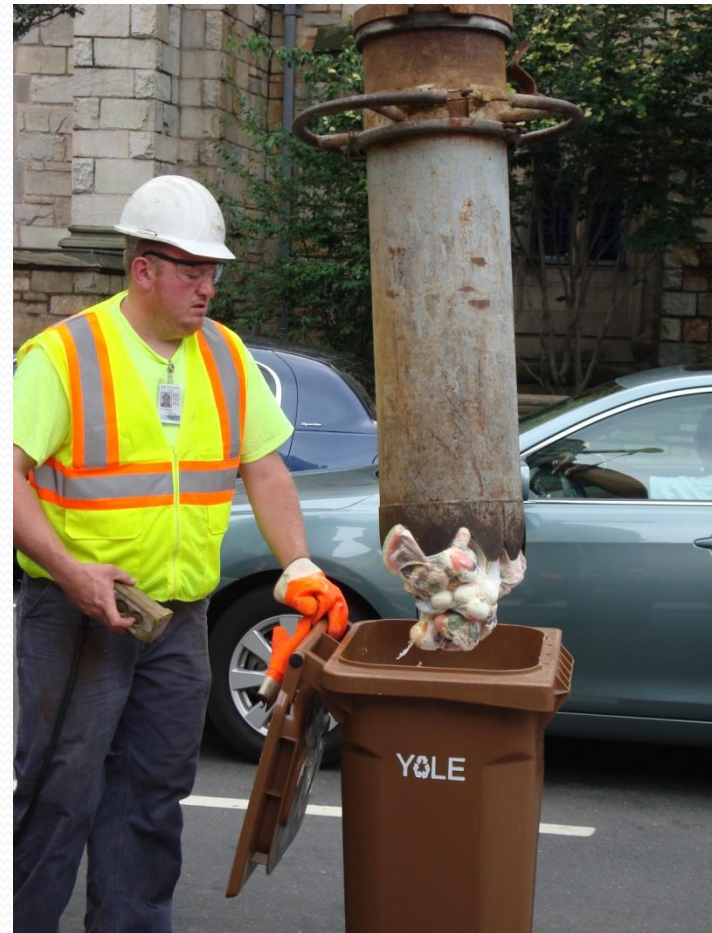
signage

education

staff

trucks

processor



# Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it

bins

bag

signage

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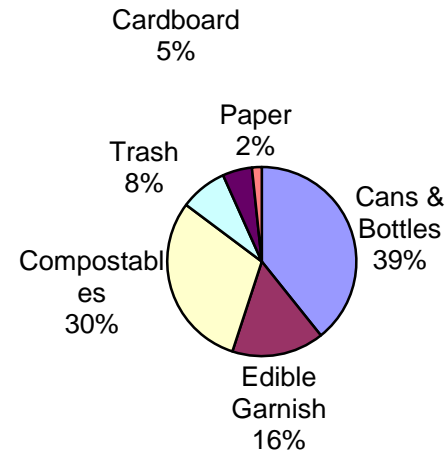


# Lessons in Collecting Organics

- Pilot it
- Measure it

Perform waste stream analyses. Record

- edible food
- non-edible food
- recyclable items
- non-recyclable



# 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

## COMPOST

Food



Napkins



Utensils



Cups, plates



# 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.”