

Jacksonville University Compost Initiative

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Composting on college campuses has become popular recently, both on a small and large scale and provide various benefits. The aim of this study is to create a way to utilize the waste produced by the Jacksonville University cafeteria, specifically through composting. This is a multi-disciplinary study with students and professors contributing from the engineering, biology, and sustainability departments.

In order to determine the problem statement and possible constraints an extensive search was conducted and cafeteria staff were interviewed. There are various processes and devices used for composting, each having different advantages and disadvantages relating to time and labor involved. After reviewing different options, two types of composting units were chosen for a pilot study to determine which one is most suitable for our campus needs. Procedures for collecting, producing, and disseminating the compost are being developed and necessary modifications and fixtures to the compost units are being designed to maximize the efficiency of the process.

The final product will be implemented in such a way as to reduce waste from the university cafeteria, while also bringing a non-labor intensive composting process to Jacksonville University. When the final compost is produced, the material will be donated to a local nonprofit which grows their own crops to help feed the homeless.