

IMPLEMENTING WASTE REDUCTION PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OUR POSITION

*Food waste throughout the food system is responsible for an enormous amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Organic matter, especially food scrap, is a big contributor to methane gas formation in landfills, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide in trapping heat close to the earth's surface. We are working extensively to reduce food waste matter by implementing a proprietary waste reduction program in our units. **Our goal is to remove 4.5M lbs of food waste from the landfills by 2010.***

Compass Group has developed Trim Trax, a food waste reduction program and green initiative which could noticeably cut operating costs as well as reduce our carbon footprint in landfills. It is designed to be implemented and executed by staff to increase engagement and operational efficiency, as well as create awareness about the environmental impact of food waste. The program will track and measure food waste costs at college cafeterias in the following categories including:

- Production waste (food thrown out prior to cooking/service such as vegetable peelings)
- Over produced (unusable food that has already gone through production and must be disposed of)
- Unused/out-of-date inventory (expired, spoiled or overcooked)
- Open category (A product or station category identified by the food service director or chef that could benefit from improvement.)

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ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- The US produces 215M tons of waste annually. Only 32% of that waste is recycled or composted and 55% ends up in landfill.
- Contrary to popular perception, organic materials like food do not decompose in landfill. Instead the materials generate methane gas, the strongest of the greenhouse gases, 23 times stronger than CO₂.
- Waste Stream management is a complex issue. This is the first of many steps Compass can take to minimize impact of waste and landfill.

The next step would be to capture the food scraps and have them composted in a commercial facility. Unfortunately, there is a lack of municipal infrastructure that supports

composting in partnership with our clients, we can play a role in identifying a local composting site and implementing a program to capture and to compost.