Compost Cubbies: A Pilot Program in Fred D. Brown Residence Hall

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Our Goals
- Increase awareness & access to composting on campus
- Decrease compost contamination rates
- Make composting as convenient and user-friendly as possible

Our Results
- 40+ participants
- 85% of people reported were "very likely" to tell their friends about composting after participating
- 90% of people considered the program more accessible when bins were located on each floor

tiny.utk.edu/compost
YOUR FOOD WASTE: from start to finish at Brown Hall

CONSUMPTION
Whether it's a Subway sandwich or an apple, this is where all food waste begins.

STEP 01
Whether it's a Subway sandwich or an apple, this is where all food waste begins.

DISPOSAL
After getting your very own compost cubby from the front desk, simply discard all food waste into your cubby. Make sure not to include any plastic wrappers!

STEP 02
After getting your very own compost cubby from the front desk, simply discard all food waste into your cubby. Make sure not to include any plastic wrappers!

WASTE ROOM
Whenever your cubby is full, take it and empty it into the larger compost bin in the waste room on your floor.

STEP 03
Whether it's a Subway sandwich or an apple, this is where all food waste begins.

COMPOST SITE
The compost truck makes stops at 30 locations on campus before taking your food waste to UT's industrial compost site, located near the Medical Center.

STEP 04
The compost truck makes stops at 30 locations on campus before taking your food waste to UT's industrial compost site, located near the Medical Center.

COMPOST!
Done! You have now helped produce nutrient-rich compost that can be used as a fertilizer in UT's very own gardens.

STEP 05
Done! You have now helped produce nutrient-rich compost that can be used as a fertilizer in UT's very own gardens.

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EASE OF THE COMPOST PROGRAM AS IT WAS IN THE INITIAL STAGE

1: Most Difficult
5: Easiest

In week 2, the floor bins were removed and replaced with large compost bins outside of the residence hall.

EASE OF THE COMPOST PILOT AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM

Number of Responses

How likely are you to tell your friends about this program and/or composting in general after participating?

Very Likely 50%
Somewhat Likely 5%
Likely 35%
Unlikely 10%
Not at All: 0%

Has the program inspired you to become more eco-friendly in the future?

Yes 70%
Slightly 20%
I Was Already Eco-Friendly 10%
Not at All: 0%

Full participant survey results can be found at:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kEGiHzYxUbrnuBtv5Lepk3LKWOU2YZ7OZ9ynaijSRGM/edit?usp=sharing

Program began with compost deposit sites on each floor of Brown Hall.
WHAT'S NEXT?

90% of participants preferred the bins inside each waste room instead of outside the building. We will work to make that a reality.

35% of people reported difficulties with the size of the cubby. We will invest in bigger cubbies as well as more user-friendly, larger compost bins.

#1 Convenience and accessibility are our #1 priorities.

COMING SOON

Increased participation at Brown
Expand to Vol Hall
Social media presence

OUR FUTURE GOALS

- Participation rate: 75%
- Decrease in contamination: 80%
- Satisfaction: 100%

- Establish consistent communication with housekeeping and housing
- Increase student sustainability knowledge through programming and workshops
- Instill a legacy of composting in residence halls

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