



Facilities Services

July 28, 2011

RE: Tufts Community Composting Program

Dear AASHE STARS Program Staff:

On behalf of Tufts University and the *Tufts Recycles!* program, we are pleased to submit our Tufts Community Composting Program for a STARS innovation credit.

Although the state of Massachusetts actively advocates for residential home composting, there are a variety of reasons why people choose not to home compost. Unfortunately the state does not have residential curbside collection of organics, and neither of our host communities offer drop-off services. Due to frequent requests by our off-campus students for composting options, the Facilities Department opened two drop-off food scrap bins. The bins are used by waste conscious students who collect food waste scraps at home and then bring them to campus. Additionally, staff and faculty use the bins to drop off food waste from offices and small campus events. The material from the bins is sent to an organics processing facility where it is made into compost.

The Tufts drop-off bins fill the void from our host community and allow our most conscientious students an opportunity to fulfill their belief systems by taking real action. A search for organic waste collection sites on earth911.org reveals only a handful of sites within a ten mile radius of the campus, most of which are fee based or for residents of specific communities.

We are unaware of any other college or university campuses with a similar program.

Sincerely,

Betsy Isenstein

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