

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Morris Campus

Office of Sustainability

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Innovation Credit #1

Title: Implementation of a composting pilot project with the Morris Areas Public Schools

Description:

During academic year 2017-2018, UMM worked with the Morris Area Public Schools to implement a pilot composting program. MAPS had not done any previous composting and did not have access to a composting facility. UMM Facilities Management staff and UMM students worked with MAPS administrators and staff to develop a pilot program. The diverted organics are composted in the on-site campus composting system.

This is an innovative effort because it required the campus to engage deeply with a community partner and share resources to trial a new program. It also requires an investment of time and energy by the UMM campus to support the implementation of the program. And, it required UMM to develop, staff, and support its own composting system, which is unavailable currently at the city- and county-level.

Results:

During the pilot year, about 5,000 lbs of organics are being removed from the public school waste stream and diverted from a landfill. We estimate that this has eliminated about 50% of the waste generated at the public schools in Morris.

Submitted by:

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