

## **AASHE STARS 2.2. Innovation Credit**

### **Title: Launching a new county-wide composting program in Stevens County**

#### Description:

In 2020-2021, UMN Morris worked with Stevens County to launch a city-wide composting program to collect organics from local businesses and institutions.

During the past decade, UMN Morris launched and maintained its own onsite cold-weather windrow composting system. UMN Morris has partnered with the Morris Area School District to manage their organics for many years now.

This new county-wide composting program is an innovative effort because it required the campus to engage deeply with a rural Minnesota county to share resources and trial a new program. It also requires an investment of time and energy by the UMN Morris campus to support the implementation of the program. UMN Morris provided leadership that composting was possible in our region. We have given tours to group interested in learning more about our system.

#### Results:

Organics are now being picked up at businesses across the city of Morris. It is especially exciting because a UMN Morris alum is coordinating the launch of this new program. More about this project is at the end of this press release:

<https://news.morris.umn.edu/news/dining-hall-grinder>

<https://www.co.stevens.mn.us/1127/Organics>

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