

Zimbra

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**Talking Trash (organic)**

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**From :** Susan Brantley <sxb7@psu.edu>

Wed, Nov 06, 2013 05:03 PM

**Subject :** Talking Trash (organic)**To :** eesi assoc <eesi\_assoc@eesi.psu.edu>, eesi affil  
<eesi\_affil@eesi.psu.edu>**Cc :** Tracy Bernier <txw9@psu.edu>, Anne Danahy  
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To all EESI friends:

I have to admit, when I heard that the new PSU composting program meant that we wouldn't have a trash can in the kitchen and that I would have to walk my waste to the recycling station out in the hall, my first thought was, oh gosh, one more time sink. What a cynic I can be!

On Tuesday, Tracy Bernier and Missy Stine of EESI invited Al Matyasovsky, supervisor of central support services in the Office of Physical Plant and composting guru, to teach us about the organic waste recycling program we have already rolled out in EES building. I was inspired. I learned that PSU has 742 buildings (!) and that this program is being rolled out building by building. I learned that Penn State is a leader in organic recycling among universities. I learned that having the composting bin out in the hall helps facilitate regular pick-ups and avoid problems with smell and insect control and that the most efficient way to engender recycling and good choices is to have individuals participate (no trash can under the desk). I learned that the bags used to collect compostables are made from corn starch and cotton seed. I learned that the Pentagon has sought advice from the PSU leadership team on recycling. I learned that PSU recycled nearly 10,000 tons of waste last year and will keep increasing that number. I learned that some of the recycling programs were initiated by ideas from students.

As the program rolls out into your building, please don't listen to cynics but be inspired by what we are trying to do. We are trying to make recycling EESI. If you would like to take the recycling tour and see and learn more about composting, please contact Tracy Bernier and she can help set up a tour.

Share your thoughts with me if you have comments about the program

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but more importantly, as EESI associates and affiliates, please teach your colleagues and students about the program and what we are trying to do.

Thanks.

Sue

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