

Building A Food Waste Diversion Program

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Background

Brooks Contractor Composting Site

- Operational since 1992
- Composting eggshells, yard waste, textile & furniture waste, and WTP sludges
- Expanded into food waste composting in 1999

Food Waste Collection Truck

- Customized Freightliner flatbed dump truck
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Brooks Composting Site



Brooks Food Waste Collection Truck



Food Waste Collection Truck

- # Stainless steel, watertight container – 8 tons capacity
 - # Digital platform scale mounted on truck with printer
 - # 300-gal. pressurized water wash tank (120 psi)
 - # Heavy-duty document shredder for waxed OCC shredding (since moved to separate box truck)
 - # J-shaped Toter lifter mounted on side for emptying carts
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Truck Digital Scale



Truck Loading



Truck Unloading



Food Waste

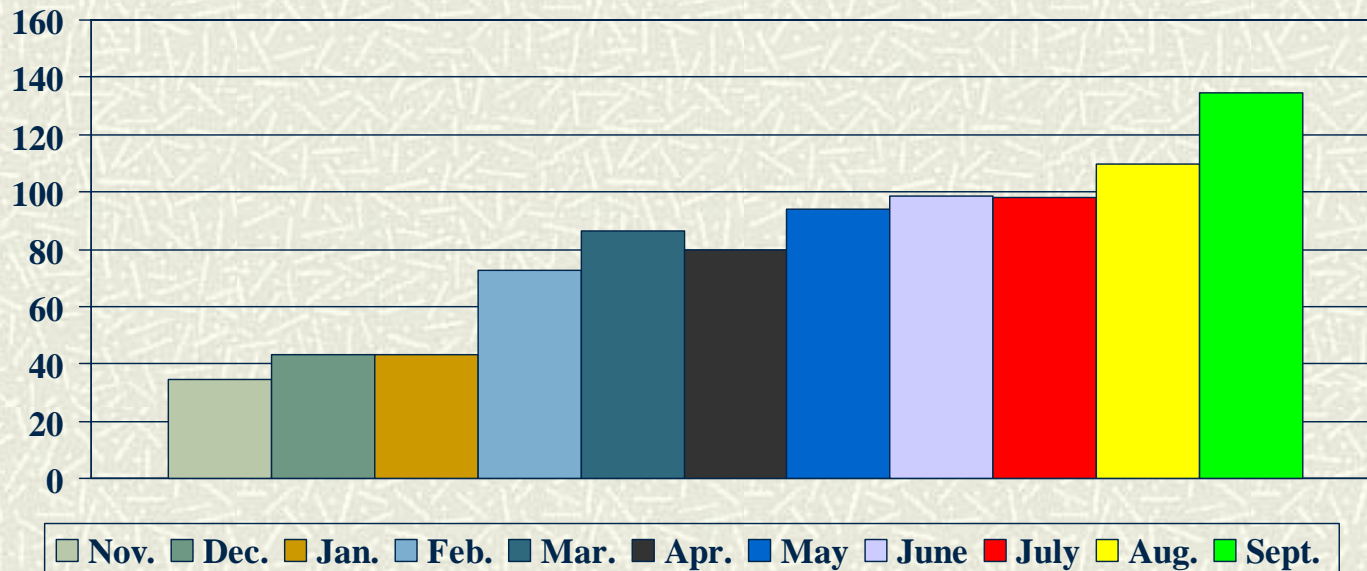


Food Waste Diversion Customers

- # Took over existing Chapel Hill hog farmer pickup route (16 restaurants and two microbreweries)
 - # Added
 - Wellspring Grocery
 - Fearington House Restaurant and Market
 - Two Winn-Dixie grocery stores (Sanford)
 - K&W Cafeteria
 - Glaxo Wellcome (9 cafeterias)
 - IBM (7 cafeterias)
 - Lenoir Dining Hall at UNC-Chapel Hill
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Quantities Diverted

- # Program began in Nov. 1999 (816 tons diverted so far, through 9/30/00)



Diversion Program Elements

- # Training provided to any employees designated by management
 - # 64-gal. wheeled Toters rented to customer
 - Labeled “Food Waste Only”
 - Acceptable materials label (must be in Spanish & English)
 - # Pick up frequency 3 x weekly, except for daily pickup at Lenoir Dining Hall
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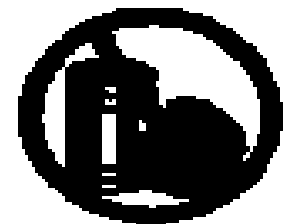
FOOD WASTE ONLY!

Restos de Comida Solamente!

Any type of paper ok
Servilletas de papel OK



No Plastics, Styrofoam, Metal or Glass
NO Pajitas Plasticas, Vasos de cartón,
Metal or Vidrio



Fearington Village Market & Inn



Source Separation at Fearington



Challenges to Program Development

- # Comparing diversion costs to present method of disposal
 - # Overcoming natural resistance to change
 - # Compliance with Health Dept. regulations
 - # Truck access and routing
 - # Ensuring adequate waste quantities to justify diversion costs
 - # Truck hauling capacity
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Overcoming Diversion Challenges

- # Detailed analysis of solid waste management costs
 - Full Cost Accounting
 - # Emphasize Environmental Sustainability
 - # Focus on convenience to customer
 - Full service collection program
 - Pickup 3 days per week (minimum)
 - Provide repeat training to overcome turnover
 - Provide reliable service
 - # Ensure Health Dept. personnel are familiar with program
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Future of Brooks Food Waste Program

- # Second truck coming on line in Fall, 2000
 - Double hauling and lifting capacity
 - Improve reliability of pickups
 - Expand geographic coverage area
 - Partially funded by NCDENR
 - # Larger truck to focus on large-volume generators
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New Food Waste Truck



New Food Waste Truck



New Collection Containers



New Watertight Containers



Summary

- # Diversion of food waste to composting is very feasible
 - Collection of food waste can be challenging
 - # Diversion can be a profitable business enterprise
 - Careful attention to costs
 - Careful attention to pricing
 - Communication with customers is critical
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