

CREATIVE PROJECT: Assessing the Feasibility of Composting Food Waste

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The reported study provides a comprehensive overview of relevant composting information for Ball State University (BSU) decision-makers to reference when establishing a food waste composting operation on the Muncie campus. Through analysis of common composting methods, examination of five collegiate programs currently composting food wastes and interviews with three key informants from BSU, recommendations are provided for the University's consideration. The experiences of other colleges and universities detailed in this study demonstrate the feasibility and potential rewards for implementing a composting operation using food waste. This study advocates the use of pre-consumer food waste as a primary feedstock in its composting operation. Early planning should include a focus on identifying stakeholders that will ensure the sustainability of the program. Through integrating the composting operation into the academic curriculum, more meaningful experiences for staff and students are possible. This study provides critical information for BSU to consider while continuing its mission of sustainability and positioning itself as a leader in higher education in the State of Indiana.