



Student Senate

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STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1018

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Expansion of Composting Stations Across Campus

AUTHOR(S): Senator Jonathan C. Stephens, Senator Evan Asuncion

SPONSORS: Deputy Minority Party Leader Mohammed Faisal, Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Senator Oscar Santiago-Perez

WHEREAS, composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants [1]; and,

WHEREAS, composting on campus as it stands is not as expansive, with some cases including the implementation of composting of paper towels in most bathrooms and the #GatorsBEATWaste in the Reitz Union; and,

WHEREAS, on the University of Florida website the #GatorsBEATWaste Station is stated to have been intended to “serve as a pilot for *future waste station opportunities*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida developed key partnerships with Waste Corporation of America (WCA) and Watson’s C&D in 2013 to integrate composting services, later growing into food dining service locations in 2014 [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Beaten Path is locally available and has served both residential and commercial clients within the Gainesville Area since 2015 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, composting reduces greenhouse gasses that would be generated in a landfill, improves soil fertility and water retention, and introduces microbes that help suppress pathogens [5]; and,

WHEREAS, when edible food is thrown away, it exacerbates the issue of food insecurity, and wastes precious resources (i.e., capital, labor, and land) that have gone into the production, fertilization, and delivery of our food and organic material [6]; and,

WHEREAS, according to a UN study, food loss and waste impacts are the world’s third-largest contributor to climate change, and, the U.S. issues the highest amount of food waste per country with the EPA estimating that more food reaches landfills than any other material in our everyday trash [7]; and,

WHEREAS, major cities, other educational institutions, individual businesses, and vendors have already spearheaded successful zero-waste strategies to increase composting, and mitigate the deleterious effects of food waste [8]; and,

WHEREAS, there are no current programs in place to expand awareness or accessibility of composting to students; and,

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 67% of non-composters would have composted their waste if their community had created easily accessible locations spread across their area [5]; and,

WHEREAS, even with the introduction of composting services within the Gainesville community, there have been limited access points for those within dormitory and apartment-style student tenants; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the benefits and advantages of composting services/stations in reducing the malevolent impacts of food waste across the globe.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the urgent need for sustainable options within our campus-wide projects, events, and administrations.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for administrative leadership within the University of Florida to help engage in supporting the expansion of composting stations within dormitory areas across campus,

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dr. Elaine Turner, Director of UF's Office of Sustainability Matthew Williams, Sustainability Program Coordinator Kaylee August, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters, IRHA President Heidi Dodds, Student Compost Cooperative Compost Manager Laura Valletti, Strong Roots Movement Co-President Merina Ingram and Strong Roots Movement Co-President Shannon Regan. Furthermore, let this resolution also reflect appreciation towards Senators Cassandra Urbenz and Senator Gabrielle Adekunle for their writing contributions and commitments to supporting a sustainable UF for all.

[1] <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101>

[2] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/waste/composting-at-uf/>

[3] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/waste/composting-at-uf/>

[4] <https://www.beatenpathcompost.com/about>

[5] <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting#benefits>

[6] <https://sustainablecampus.cornell.edu/campus-initiatives/purchasing-waste/food-waste-compost>

[7] <https://www.wri.org/insights/whats-food-loss-and-waste-got-do-sustainable-development-lot-actually>

[8] <https://coopeduplife.com/composting-statistics/>

Elizabeth Hartzog

6/12/2022 | 2:37 PM EDT

Elizabeth Hartzog
Senate President

Date