

Organics at MIT

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MIT Statistics

■ Campus

- ❖ 168 acres in Cambridge
- ❖ 158 buildings
 - 12.1M sqft, 6.9 academic
 - 18 student residences, 2.9M sqft

■ MIT Community

- ❖ 11,840 staff and faculty
- ❖ 11,319 students
 - 4,512 undergraduate
 - 6,807 graduate



Aerial view of a very urban campus.

Recycling Team

- Seven person team
 - ❖ Manager, Operations Supervisor
 - ❖ Five service staff
 - ❖ Four vehicles including packer truck
- Handle solid waste pick up daily
 - ❖ Average 2.75 tons of recycling
 - ❖ 20-25 employee requests
 - ❖ Special pick ups: Styrofoam, empty Big Bellies

Waste Streams

- ❖ Trash
- ❖ Recycling
- ❖ Food Waste
- ❖ eWaste
- ❖ Universal Waste
- ❖ C&D, Wood, Metal
- ❖ Tires



Recycling team member handles eWaste at Stata Loading dock.

- ❖ Styrofoam
- ❖ Mattresses

Waste Collection Hubs

- Stata Center/Building 32
- Stratton Student Center/Building W20
- Sloan School/Building E62
- Brain and Cognitive Sciences/Building 46
- Recycle Yard

Organics Collection

- Existed prior to 2008
- Revised and expanded in 2010
- Expanded from back of house to front of house
- Not really affected by MassDEP Organics Ban



Front of house containers.

Food Waste/Compost Collection

- Twenty locations on campus
 - ❖ Eight back of kitchen
 - Seven of those include front of house waste
 - ❖ Graduate residences with private kitchens
 - ❖ Events include compostable materials

Food Waste Tonnage Statistics

Year	High	Month	Low	Month	Annual	Average
2015	18	June	10.7	Feb	113.8*	14.2
2014	28.7	Sept	9.6	Jan	194.6	16.22
2013	18.2	May	8.9	Aug	150.3	12.53
2012	20.8	Sept	6.7	Sept	182	15.16
2011	16.3	Dec	8.4	Jan	145.7	12.14
2010	14.5	Sept	2	Jan	121.7	10.14
2009	5.7	Feb	1.8	Jan	46.5	3.87

Waste Audits

- Held during Earth Week in 2014 and 2015
 - ❖ In collaboration with Green Groups
 - ❖ Sorted trash from Stratton Student Center

MIT staff and students sort trash bags taken from daily waste at the student center.



Waste Audit Statistics

■ 2014 Contents of Trash Bags

- ❖ Recycling: 30%
- ❖ Compostables/Organics: 40%
- ❖ Trash 25%
- ❖ Miscellaneous: 5%

■ 2015 Contents of Trash Bags

- ❖ Recycling: 12%
- ❖ Compostables/Organics: 55%
- ❖ Trash: 28%
- ❖ Styrofoam clam shells 5% (258 pieces)

Challenges

- Staff turnover
 - ❖ Inadequate training
- Loading Docks
 - ❖ Improper handling
- Food Waste Collection
 - ❖ Desire for more collection by community
 - ❖ Participation by dining partners



Food waste bin is uncovered while other bin has black bag inside.

Improvements

- Signage in Multiple Languages
 - ❖ English
 - ❖ Spanish
 - ❖ Chinese
- Color coordinated
- Additional Bins

Students from sustainability groups label food waste collection bins.



Sustainable Practices

- Educate the MIT community about the waste collection programs
- Logo
- Contests
- Posters
- Training
- Displays



The clear bin is used to collect scraps during food prep.

Relationships

- Building Cooperation through Collaboration
 - ❖ Customer Service Center
 - ❖ Custodial Services
 - ❖ Grounds
 - ❖ Student groups
 - ❖ CAC
 - ❖ Dining
 - ❖ Housing
 - ❖ Building Managers

Students in Waste Watchers group inform community of proper disposal.



Contact information

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Department of Facilities

MIT RECYCLES