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# RETHINKING TRASH

UNDERSTANDING THE VALUE OF FOOD WASTE



# Introduction

The University Apartment Waste diversion team of 2019 focused on increasing waste diversion in University Apartments. The University Apartments (UA) house a large portion of UCLA's undergraduate community, and there is a large potential for sustainability initiatives, which is why our team chose to put our focus here. By instilling responsible waste disposal practices early on, we can generate sustainability habits that the residents will take with them long after they have left UCLA. Another important aspect of our project was contributing to the UCLA's Zero Waste by 2020 goal by fostering mindfulness among the residents regarding composting.

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# Introduction

The main goal of our project was to use an educational approach to improve the resident's waste disposal behavior, and ultimately increase the proportion of waste diverted from landfill. We did this by collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to assess the attitudes and behaviors of the residents at two University Apartments, one with a composting system already in place and one without. We then used our data to create educational materials for the Resident Assistants, and an implementation proposal for composting systems for the other University Apartments. Overall, our project showed us that there is a high level of engagement and passion for composting among the residents, but that a lack of knowledge and convenience have hindered the success of composting systems. Our work has aimed to address these obstacles so that in the future, the UA apartments composting systems can work more efficiently and effectively.

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## MEET THE TEAM



### **ERIN FABRIS, STAKEHOLDER**

As Sustainability Manager for Housing & Hospitality Services, Erin is tasked with implementing, maintaining, and tracking the progress of sustainability programs for On- and Off-Campus Housing, UCLA Guest House, Conferences and Catering, Vending Services, the Lake Arrowhead Conference Center and Bruin Woods Family Resort, and the Luskin Conference Center. Erin comes to UCLA with over 4 years of sustainability experience, most recently as the Sustainability Coordinator for USC where she created the sustainability program for Housing. She holds a Bachelors in Marine Biology and a Masters of Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara. As a student she studied ocean acidification and the environmental impacts of the film industry.

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## MEET THE TEAM



### **Emma Stanfield, Co-leader**

Emma is a third year studying Evolution, Behavior, and Ecology. She is interested in conservation genomics and biotechnology. In addition to her work with SAR, Emma works in a lab where she studies the role of environmental DNA in conservation. She enjoys being outdoors and adventuring to new places!



### **Zachary Devereux, Co-leader**

Zach is a fourth year studying Environmental Science with a concentration in Conservation Biology. Along with his work in SAR Zach studies rising threats to the Western Pond Turtle and wildlife adaptations to an urbanized environment. Due to his love of the outdoors he often spends his free time gardening and backpacking.

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## MEET THE TEAM



**Caroline Schreck, member**  
Caroline is a third year studying Environmental Science with a concentration in Conservation Biology. She is passionate about wildlife conservation and environmental justice, as well as tackling issues of food waste.



**Elizabeth Popescu, member**  
Elizabeth is a second-year studying Biology and French. Besides her work with SAR, she also researches how brain tumors affect a person's language, speech, and cognition. She enjoys hiking and spontaneous road trips!



**Maia Rodriguez-Choi**  
Maia is a first year student at UCLA. She is studying Environmental Science and is passionate about food waste and environmental justice. She loves hiking in the Santa Monica mountains.

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## BACKGROUND

Responsible waste disposal is an essential step for long term sustainability here at UCLA, and in the world. Composting is an ecological, social and economically feasible practice that has a wide range of benefits. Disposing of food waste in landfills produces methane which is 25 times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. Composting is nature's way of composting, it transforms food waste into the starting blocks of life: natural, nutrient rich soil.

**WASTE**   
**DIVERSION**



# BACKGROUND

The first Sustainability Action Research (SAR) team that focused on waste diversion in Graduate Housing was formed in 2017. They set out to design a program to provide residents with information and resources to reduce waste in University Apartments, primarily by encouraging composting practices.

With guidance from stakeholders Daisy Oliver and Addae Jahdai-Brown, the team was able to use a two pronged approach that involved providing residents with adequate infrastructure and education. They concluded their project by implementing composting programs in two Graduate Housing units, 720 Hilgard and 824 Hilgard.



# BACKGROUND

The following SAR team of 2018 working with the same stakeholders focused on improving these composting programs and made great strides in the world of waste diversion with students, but lacked the participation from undergraduate students.

Wanting to expand into this untapped area of potential improvement they shifted their focus to undergraduate housing creating composting program implementation plans for two undergraduate apartment buildings.



# Methodology

Our project was a continuation of last year's SAR University Apartment Waste Diversion Team. We had quite a bit of flexibility regarding the approach we wanted to take since it was fairly new and a plethora of different suggestions were made for our group. We first started by organizing walkthroughs of 510 Landfair (Landfair Vista) and 555 Glenrock to discuss waste issues with the custodial staff and choose a target building. We then conducted a waste audit at the Glenrock and Landfair University Apartments to decide what our project would specifically entail. We sorted through all of the residents waste and placed them into their respective categories of compost, recycling, and trash sent to the landfill. We weighed each of these piles and calculated what percent could be diverted.





# Methodology

With our data from the waste audit, we could see that residents were not taking advantage of the composting system in place, presumably because of its inconvenience. Since compost must be carried down stairs to the garage to be disposed of in the dumpster it is easier for residents to simply add their compost waste to the landfill trash chute which is accessible on every floor. Our next approach was to implement a compost system on each floor, where each floor would have an accessible compost bin in addition to the one already in place in the trash room. This proved to be quite difficult as we had limited knowledge of apartment structure and we were not a part of the Housing and Hospitality staff.



# Methodology

For the remainder of the year, we focused on the educational aspect of our project so that residents could be trained to compost properly both while being residents in their apartments and in their life beyond. In order to gauge the attitude around composting, we designed a survey we had attendees at the Earth Day Fair complete. The data helped us create ideas since we were not quite sure how to approach residents with the topic of waste since sorting it is neither appealing nor sanitary. Our group worked hard to design an attractive event to reach residents directly. We made fliers, sent emails, and contacted the Apartment Resident Assistance (ARA) to publicize our educational waste sorting event.

We were able to host a small activity at Landfair Vista where we had a waste sorting game for residents in the center of the building. We created a welcoming atmosphere by playing music and offering prizes. We were pleased to find that the residents who participated in our activity were curious and eager to learn how to properly sort their waste. It was very rewarding to see residents gain knowledge on proper waste disposal and to be responsible for that education.




UA WASTE DIVERSION

# Waste Auditing: Learn how to Talk Trash!

Join the UA Waste Diversion Team &  
learn how to properly sort your  
waste!

**FREE T-SHIRTS & THE CHANCE TO  
WIN SUSTAINABLE PRIZES!**

Thursday May 16th  
Landfair Vista Courtyard  
5-7 pm





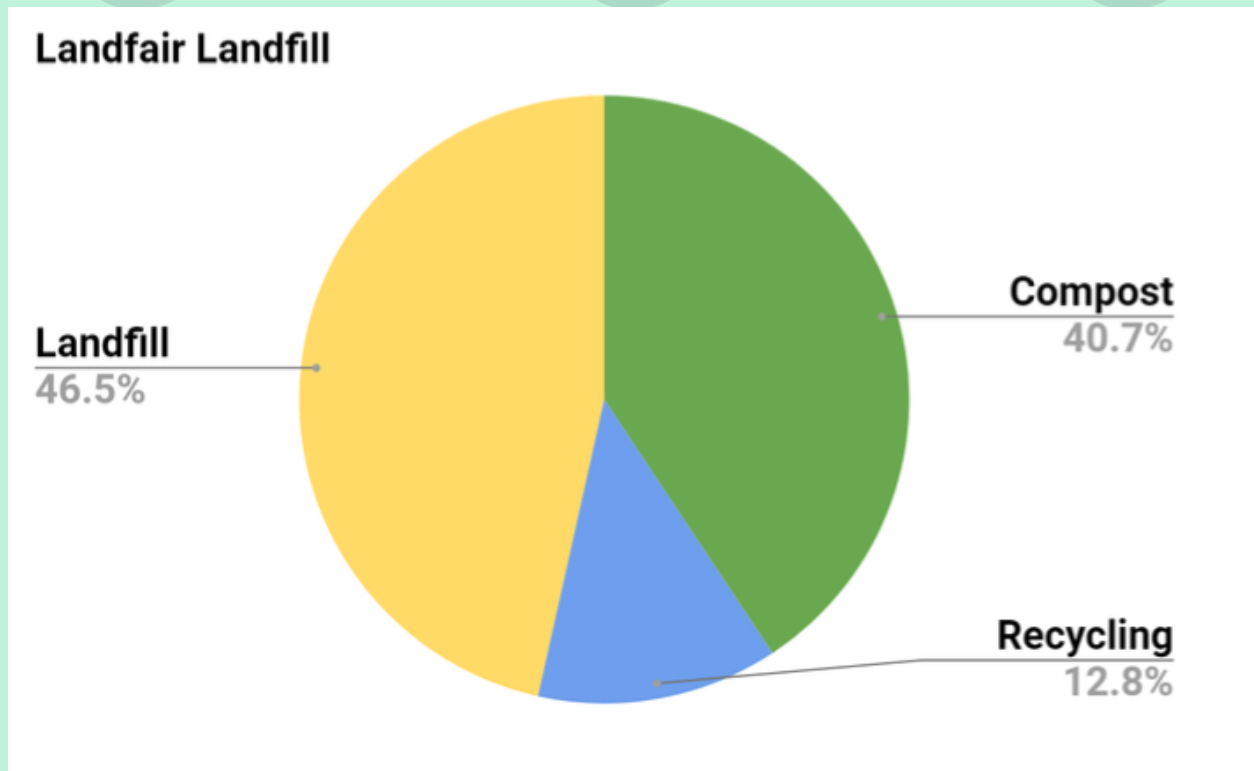
# Methodology

In order to further establish education around compost in the University Apartments, we each drafted a section of an ARA binder that included a detailed guide of how to properly recycle and compost in each respective building. We added methods for ARAs to educate their residents on proper composting to increase knowledge and mindfulness around waste.

Although we faced challenges, we were able to collect useful data around waste habits in the University Apartments that proves the potential for improvement. This data will be useful for future or related projects.

# Results

Figure 1: Amount of divertable waste from Landfair Vista's landfill dumpster.



## Initial Waste Audit

On March 10, 2019, we performed a waste audit at Landfair Vista, sorting through the landfill, recycling, and compost waste to find the proportion of waste that was sorted incorrectly. The sum of recycling and compost is considered the total waste diversion from landfill. At Landfair Vista the landfill dumpster consisted of very similar amounts of compost and landfill waste, with a smaller percentage of recyclables improperly disposed (Figure 1). Unfortunately, there was three times more compost thrown down the landfill chute than properly disposed of in the compost bin itself. In total, this building's landfill dumpster contained 35.2 kilograms of waste that could have been diverted. In other words, 53% of residents' trash is going in the wrong bin. A large barrier to proper composting habits for the residents is convenience - there is a trash chute on every floor while any other waste must be walked down to the trash room, a practice that does not necessarily encourage proper sorting. However, 59.4% of the 96 kilograms (212 pounds) we sorted through was divertable waste in the form of compost or recyclables, meaning that Landfair Vista has potential for waste diversion of a large scale.

# Results

As for the Glenrock apartments, our next target for rolling out a composting program, the numbers did not look much different. Compost and landfill waste made up similar proportions of the landfill dumpster, meaning that the residents with composting available to them in Landfair Vista are not performing any better than those without. While talking with Laura Lopez, the custodial supervisor for the University Apartments, she voiced issues about residents not using provided caddies to throw away compost, and even throwing their trash “on the ground.” This lack of bagging the compost correctly caused a pest and odor issue and created more work for the custodial team. Instead of rushing to get the structural elements of the compost systems in place, we decided to take a step back and focus on education to increase participation and correct composting practices.

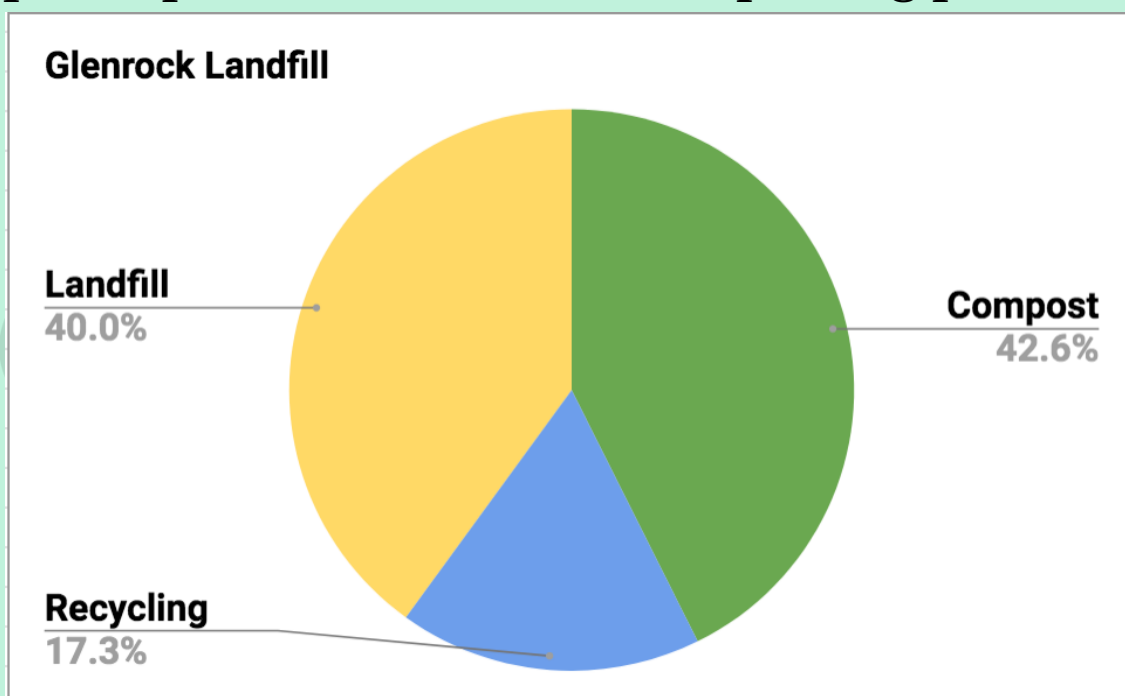


Figure 2: Amount of divertable waste from Glenrock East's landfill dumpster.



# Results

## Educational Waste Audit

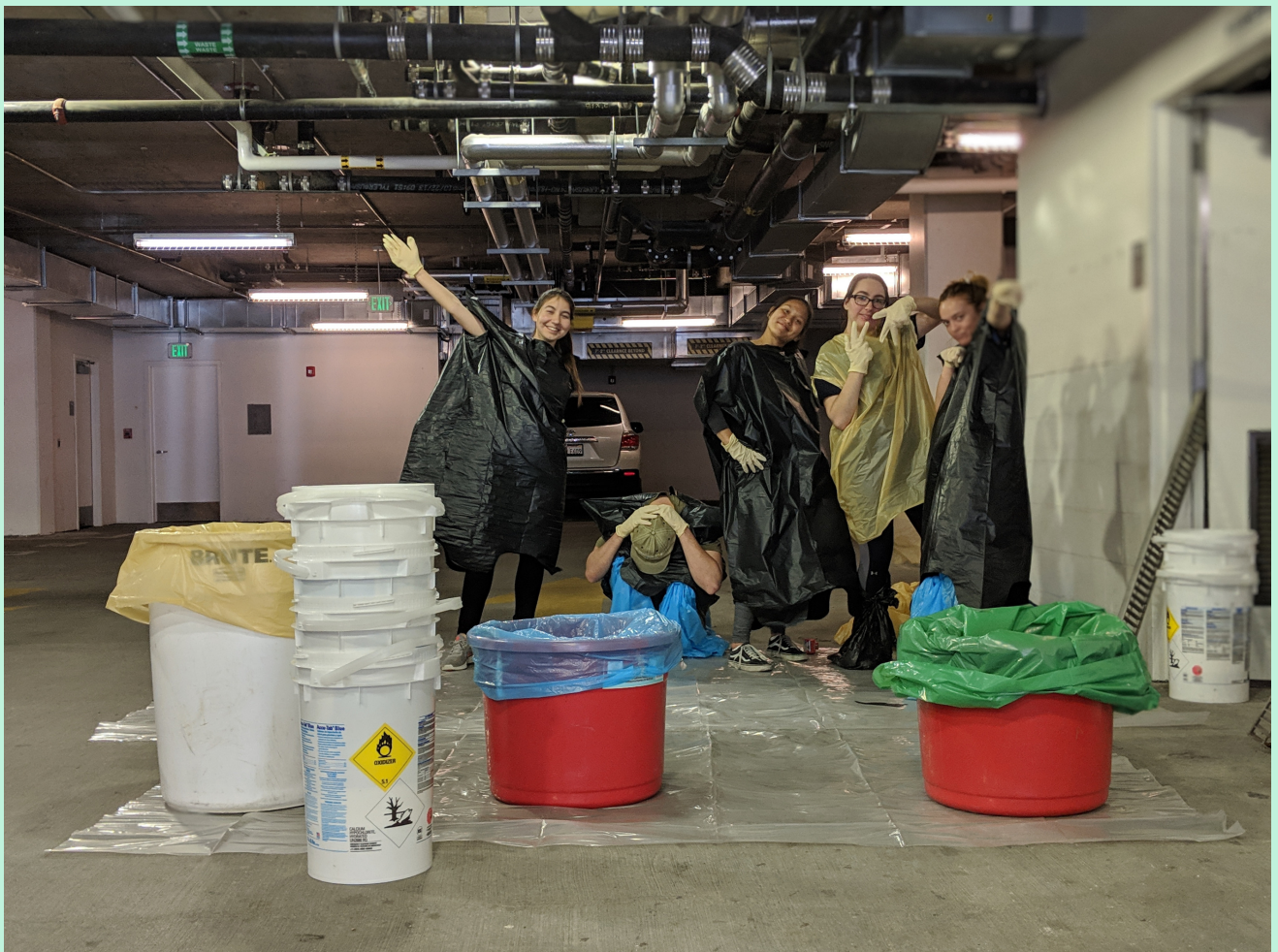
For our first outreach program on-site at Landfair Vista, we conducted an educational waste audit. We compiled a small amount of trash from the building's trash room, and set up a tarp and bins for compost, recycling, and landfill in the center of the Landfair Vista courtyard. We had received incentives such as t-shirts from the Office of Residential Life, as well as miscellaneous sustainable items from Housing and Hospitality Services. We gave residents the option to don a safety suit and sort with us, or to simply point out the items to sort. Our team asked leading questions, such as "What do you think is compostable?", as well as educating on common sorting misconceptions such as receipt paper, paper egg cartons, and even newspaper. The residents also shared some common reasons for not composting, such as the inconvenience of going to the trash room, the smell or presence of bugs in the trash room, lack of space to keep compost in the fridge, or the fact that their roommates don't cooperate.

# Results

Residents also reminded us they are not provided with recycling bin, which would be helpful for promoting further waste diversion. We also got the chance to interact with the ARA of Landfair Vista at this event, who was not particularly knowledgeable on compost and sorting, which further supports our idea for a comprehensive ARA education standard through the implementation of the ARA binder. We also had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and our project to the residents after two quarters of working in the background. This event showed us the importance of fitting compost education into the job description of RAs. Coining someone as a sustainability representative and influencer can be an effective way to enhance these compost programs.









# Earth Day Fair Attitude Survey

Our attitude survey we conducted at the 2019 Earth Day Fair on UCLA campus inspired our educational components. While our previous quantitative and educational data revealed imperative results and data points, our attitude survey presented qualitative data that gave us insight to the continuation of our project. We learned from this survey that the majority of our subjects do believe that composting can better the health of our environment. Additionally, a significant number of individuals had zero to little previous experience with composting before coming to UCLA. With this in mind, we were encouraged to further our project with a strong emphasis on educating residents of University Apartments about the importance, process, and structure of composting in their daily lives.

UNIVERSITY  
APARTMENTS

# WASTE DIVERSION

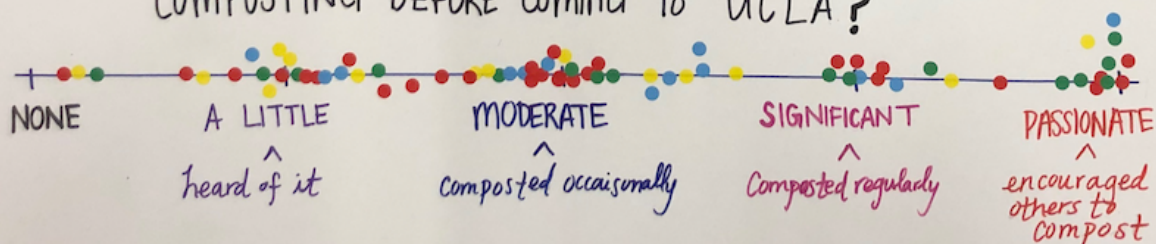
WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TRASH DO YOU THINK IS COMPOSTABLE?



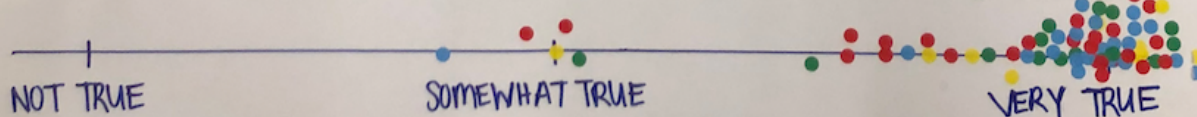
HOW FAR WOULD YOU WALK TO THROW AWAY YOUR BANANA PEEL  
IN A COMPOST BIN?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR EXPOSURE TO  
COMPOSTING BEFORE COMING TO UCLA?



I BELIEVE THAT MY CHOICE TO COMPOST EVERY DAY CAN MAKE A  
BIG DIFFERENCE FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENT LONG-TERM.



# **Apartment RA Binder**

As seen in our waste audit results, even the best composting program is useless if the residents do not actively participate and sort their waste. A key part of our project was creating an education plan for the University Apartments to utilize to maximize resident participation. Currently, composting education for the undergraduate apartments is handled by the Apartment Resident Assistants (ARAs). We are working to create a packet of information that the ARAs can use when leading events and interacting with their residents. The packet includes information explaining how to compost, answers to common questions, and explanations on why composting is important. We hope that this can be used as an educational standard for Apartment RAs as well as RAs on the Hill. (See appendix for the full ARA binder)

## **Implementation Proposal**

We have also compiled specific composting infrastructure recommendations for the Glenrock Apartments, including number of bins per floor, dumpsters per building, and number of caddies needed. Additionally, there is a comprehensive step-by-step implementation guide for a future SAR team or for whoever may continue this work, showing who to contact for each step of the compost system implementation. (See below for our implementation proposal)



# Implications for the Future

We hope that the combination of a convenient composting infrastructure and comprehensive resident education will significantly increase waste diversion in the University Apartments.

We hope to structure a system that will regularly update the ARAs on the effectiveness of their buildings waste diversion efforts and progress towards UCLA's overall sustainability goals. This will allow ARAs to keep their residents updated and encouraged to participate. Green Halo, a program that is meant to track trash pickups for the University Apartments, would be an excellent way to track increasing in composting but unfortunately it has not been updated since November 2018 for Landfair Vista or the Glenrock apartments.

We hope that, with the help of future SAR teams, the offices of sustainability in Housing and Hospitality (and others) will be able to effectively implement comprehensive composting systems in all the University Apartments at UCLA. The goal of this inclusive composting program is to sustain lifelong mindfulness for waste diversion. We hope to formulate how to live sustainably in the livelihoods of our community members.



# Appendices

## Implementation Proposal

### Implementation Proposal

#### *Compost in UA North Apartment Buildings*

**Target buildings:** 555 and 558 Glenrock Avenue

#### Structure of Buildings

- Number of bins per floor (1 per floor per tower)
  - 555 Glenrock: 10 bins
  - 558 Glenrock: 10 bins
  - Total 20 bins
- Number of signs per floor (1 per floor)

*We recommend using the same signage as the hill trash rooms for the University Apartments.*

  - 555 Glenrock: 5 signs
  - 558 Glenrock: 5 signs
  - Total 10 signs
- Number of caddies per room
  - Equal to number of units
  - 555 Glenrock: 48 units
  - 558 Glenrock: 44 units
  - Total 92 caddies
- Number of dumpsters per building (tower)
  - Will need to order: 1 compost dumpster per tower
    - Total: 2 compost dumpsters
- Number of compost pick up days
  - Athens: Mon, Wed, Fri (MWF) due to need for cleaning
- **Timing of implementation - Fall 2019**

*[Resident Suggestion: Providing recycling bin along with caddy at move-in (Could further increase waste diversion)]*



**Implementation Proposal**  
***Compost in UA North Apartment Buildings***

**Target buildings: 555 and 558 Glenrock Avenue**

Implementation Phase	Contact	Position	Department	Email
Ordering bins & signage	Erin Fabris	Sustainability Manager	H&HS	efabris@ha.ucla.edu
Installation of bins & signage	1. Otto Graham 2. Laura Lopez	1. Manager, UA North 2. Housekeeping Manager, UA North	1. Maintenance 2. University Apartments	1. ograham@ha.ucla.edu 2. llopez@ha.ucla.edu
Installation of compost dumpsters	1. Jennifer Cilloniz 2. Otto Graham	1. Organics Program Manager 2. Manager, UA North	1. Athens Services 2. Maintenance	1. JCilloniz@athensservices.com 2. ograham@ha.ucla.edu
Providing caddies	Laura Lopez	Housekeeping Manager, UA North	University Apartments	llopez@ha.ucla.edu
Informing Athens of new compost program pickup	1. Glenn Tatsumi 2. Jennifer Cilloniz	1. Grounds Supervisor 2. Organics Program Manager	1. Maintenance 2. Athens Services	1. gtatsumi@ha.ucla.edu 2. JCilloniz@athensservices.com
Education of ARA's in sustainability and composting (use of the RA binder)	1. Daisy Oliver 2. Addae Jahdai-Brown	1. Community Director, UA 2. Assistant Director, Off Campus Apartments	1. Residential Life 2. Residential Life	1. doliver@orl.ucla.edu 2. ajahdai-brown@orl.ucla.edu
Education of residents	Apartment Residential Assistants (contacted indirectly through Daisy Oliver)	ARA	Residential Life, University Apartments North	Emails provided by Daisy Oliver doliver@orl.ucla.edu

Include \*caddies\* as part of the room furnishing

## Implementation Proposal

Target buildings: 555 and 558 Glenrock Avenue

### *Compost in UA North Apartment Buildings*

#### *Education- Refer to the ARA Binder for a more in-depth look at our education proposal*

- RAs, email list
- Waste audit with Landfair - make this a template for future proposals
  - Contacts from RAs at Landfair - ResLife
- Flier for the future, intro to composting flier
- RA training program - sustainability packet/binder for RA's when they start their jobs.
  - Sorting- infographics from past teams
    - Special/common exceptions
  - Outline for communication/timeline
    - Ex. email twice a quarter
  - Draft email for them / template
  - Send out survey to get entered for prize etc?
  - Monthly updates: use the data from Athens to send out "feel-good" emails to residents- "you're doing great!" talk about zero waste 2020 goal
  - Green Halo updating
  - Places to compost / Westwood/campus map?
- Draft email to residents
- Posters / fliers to hang up on the floors
- Google drive with promotional graphics/example flyers
- FB group for the building
- Social media
- Tabling

#### Make education replicable

- Add into the ARA job description
- Move in packet
- Institutionalize



# RA Binder

## A Comprehensive Compost Binder for ARAs of UA North Apartment Buildings

Written by: SAR's University Apartments Waste Diversion Team

*Zachary Devereux, Emma Stanfield, Elizabeth Popescu, Maia Rodriguez-Choi, Caroline Schreck*

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The purpose of this binder is to provide a waste diversion guidelines for current and future Apartment Resident Advisors. This resource should aid the University Apartment residents to live a more sustainable and mindful lifestyle. By outlining the ins and outs of composting, recycling, and general waste diversion, residents will make better use of existing and future compost systems and contribute to sustainable living at UCLA.

# 1) Motivation

## Background:

Even the best composting program and infrastructure cannot succeed if the residents do not actively participate and sort their waste. By engaging residents throughout the year, we can maximize participation and increase waste diversion from landfill.

## Why is Composting Important?

The Apartment RA should be a source of information for residents, therefore they should also be well educated on matters of sustainability and composting.

### I. Sustainability at UCLA

You can do YOUR part and make a difference- how do we make people believe this? Same idea from Earth day, break down how much food waste one person makes, i.e. if you composted you could divert this much waste which equals this much greenhouse gases etc etc.

### II. Zero Waste 2020 Goal

*Your efforts to encourage composting in your building will directly support UCLA's Zero Waste 2020 goals.*

There is currently a UC wide goal to have zero waste sent to landfills by the year 2020. Across the entire system 69% of the generated solid waste is already being diverted from landfills. You can go online to the UC's 2020 goal page and take the My Last Trash pledge where you pledge to cut back on single use items bringing reusable ones with you instead. The pledge also includes finding new ways to repurpose items instead of throwing them away and rethinking your choices when it comes to what you purchase. Also on the webpage you can find helpful tips and advice on how to reduce the waste you make and live a more sustainable lifestyle.

These are accompanied by **fun facts** about the affects our actions can have including:

- Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags annually, equivalent to 12 million barrels of oil
- If the world's food waste was a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gasses
- Americans buy 25 billion plastic water bottles annually
- Reducing food waste by only 15% would be enough to feed more than 25 million Americans per year
- While one person's actions won't completely solve these problems if everyone does their part these pollutants can be erased

## Why compost?

- Disposing of food waste in landfill produces methane which is 25x more potent a greenhouse gas than CO2 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/wg1/>)

### III. LA Zero Waste goals



- Reduction of landfill disposal by 1,000,000 tons per year by 2025;
- Transparent and predictable solid waste and recycling service rates for the next 10-20 years;
- Quality customer service standards with LA Sanitation (LASAN) monitoring and enforcement;
- Franchise hauler accountability for program outcomes and customer satisfaction through a series of measures implemented by LASAN, up to and including liquidated damages;
- Compliance with environmental regulations, including mandatory commercial and organics recycling;
- Investment of over \$200 million in new and improved solid resources infrastructure;
- Clean fuel vehicles; and
- Decrease and recycling of food waste, and increase in food rescue.

Source:

<https://www.waste360.com/waste-reduction/la-city-council-approves-zero-waste-la-program>

### **Application:**

#### **Visual Reminders**

Incorporating visual reminders of composting and sustainability in the University Apartments can serve as subtle reminders for residents act on the conviction that they have an individual impact on the health of the environment by composting more frequently.

*Pictured: Fliers created to encourage improvement in composting behaviors.*



## 2) Sorting

### Background:

All of our daily waste can be separated into three main categories: landfill, recycling, and compost. In order to achieve zero waste, it is important to divert residents' waste from landfills as much as possible. All sources for proper sorting of waste (regular and compost dumpsters/recycling bins) are available in the trash room in the parking lot along with signage to guide residents. Here is a detailed guide of where each type of waste should be placed.

- Infographics (see end of this document/copy ones already in place (510 Landfair) for different buildings)
- Detailed instructions on how to compost in YOUR building
  - Double bag your compost/use green compost bags in the trash room by the compost dumpster
  - The following items are all compostable: any food items (egg shells, vegetable and fruit scraps, seeds, coffee grounds, etc), paper towels/napkins, cardboard that is broken into small pieces (pizza boxes, egg cartons) , and takeout materials from the Hill/ASUCLA
  - Recyclables: CLEAN/EMPTY plastic, metal, and glass materials such as water bottles, cans, aluminum foil, newspapers, laundry detergent bottles, milk gallons
    - Look for number in triangle usually on bottom of plastic materials. Numbers 1-7 are all acceptable.
    - Empty/rinse all materials before recycling
    - NO MIXED METALS (e.g. envelopes with paper/plastic, wrappers with plastic/aluminum, coffee cups with plastic film inside all go directly to the landfill!)

Landfill: Place all trash in black trash bags. No loose trash is permitted down the chute. Examples of acceptable materials include: candy wrappers, mixed metals (e.g. CLIF bar wrapper, chip bags, envelopes), anything with bodily fluids.

- Step by step
  - Exceptions: Dirty metals may be recycled with prior cleaning since it is melted down, teabags are actually not compostable due to plastic synthetic in the string.
-



## Compost

(includes but not limited to)

### WHAT:

#### *Food Scraps*

- Fruits and vegetables
- Cheese and dairy
- Meat, bones, poultry and seafood
- Bread, rice and pasta
- Cut flowers and herbs
- Coffee filters
- Any putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, and consumption activities

#### *Food-Soiled Paper*

- Food-stained paper
- Napkins and paper kitchen towels
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper food boats (no plastic lining)
- Paper packaging
- Paper plates and cups (no plastic lining)
- Pizza boxes
- 100% fiber based, compostable serving-ware and to-go containers

**WHERE:** **Green** dumpster in trash room

### HOW:

- Use green bags located next to the dumpster in the trash room
- Double-bag compost to avoid flies/odor

## Recyclables

### WHAT:

#### *Paper*

- newsprint
- ledger writing
- copier paper
- junk mail
- magazines
- glossy paper
- paperback books
- cereal boxes
- paper grocery bags
- wrapping paper
- corrugated cardboard

#### *Metallic Materials*

- aluminum foil and cans
- bottles
- steel (tin) food cans
- coat hangers
- bi-metal beverage cans

#### *Miscellaneous*

- juice boxes
- milk cartons
- glass jars

**WHERE:** **Blue** dumpster in trash room

### HOW:

- Clean and empty all recyclables EXCEPT metals (which are melted)

## Landfill

### WHAT:

- bathroom waste
- candy bar wrappers
- chip bags
- cigarette butts
- diapers
- disposable gloves
- foam
- pet waste
- plastic bags
- cacti and succulents

**WHERE:** **Black** dumpster in trash room

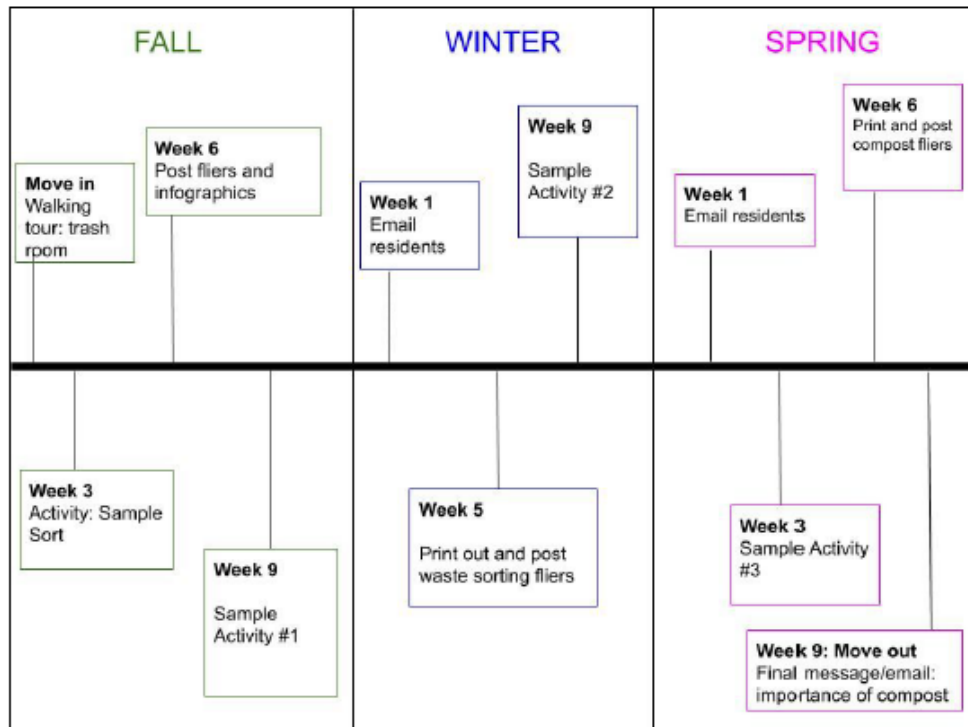
### HOW:

- Place all trash in black trash bags
- Absolutely no loose trash is allowed down the trash chute or dumpster

### 3) Communication

#### Background:

To be a leader within sustainability means you must be able to communicate and engage with your community. Sustainability requires community leaders and active voices. Get your residents on a monthly, or quarterly, sustainability schedule to improve the consistency and integrity of the program.



*Here is a general guideline for how you may set up your quarterly timeline*

#### Application:

Communicating with your residents regularly about composting and general waste diversion entails many forms of contact. Fliers, meetings, and emails are some great ideas to get a level of communication and conversation about composting started. We advise that you send at least 2 emails per quarter - as general reminders about how to compost, and other information relating to sustainability and waste diversion.

#### Activities:

##### *Sample Activity #1*

Ask your residents to collect the waste they create from the food their apartment eats over one full day (wrappers, containers, tins, leftovers, fruit and vegetable peels).



Help your resident separate the waste you have collected into biodegradable and non-biodegradable piles. Discuss which items can be disposed into recycling, compost, or landfill. Ask them whether there is a way that you could reduce your waste in future by choosing items that can be recycled or composted? For example, reusable water bottles rather than plastic single use bottles; lunch box or tupperware rather than plastic bags.

### *Sample Activity #2*

Help promote zero waste eating by hosting a gardening event. Provide residents with seed starters for apartment friendly plants, like herbs. Residents can pot these and grow them in their apartments. This event could be coupled with a discussion about other ways to reduce the waste that comes from food, such as bringing reusable bags to grocery stores, and buying pantry staples in bulk.

### *Sample Activity #3*

Get your building involved in the wider sustainability efforts on campus. Organize your residents into a group to go out and volunteer at one of the waste audits in the dining halls, or attend workshops put on by sustainability groups at UCLA. This can be a way to promote sustainability while building a sense of community at your building.

### **Email**

Here is an example of an email you might send out to your residents:

*To: All residents of X Apartment*

*Subject: Let's Talk COMPOST!*

*"Hello residents,*

*Here at Landfair Vista, we have a state of the art composting system! Your fellow undergrad peers at UCLA worked really hard to implement the composting bags, caddies, and bins you will find in this apartment.*

*You all should have caddies in your rooms which will be used to carry your compost to the green compost dumpster in the trash room. The trash room is located on the garage level, next to the landfill and recycling dumpsters. Please use the compostable plastic baggies - that are supplied in the downstairs trash room with dumpsters - to line your compost caddies and contain your compost waste. Once you have disposed of your compost waste, take a new plastic bag for your next use!*

*Here's some tips to make your composting experience even better: keep your compost in the freezer- it'll last longer and smell better! Also try double-bagging it to help with this.*

*We will be doing various compost and waste related activities throughout the year. I will also be supplying you with helpful tools to remind you how you should be sorting your waste.*

*Thanks!*

*Best,*

*Signature"*





THANK  
YOU