Green Team Composting Options

Why Compost?

- Less waste to landfills!
  - Average American throws away 100 pounds of food waste each year!
  - For campus community, this means approximately 2000 tons annually!

- Composted materials degrade much faster than landfill organics
  (1 month vs. years!)

- Landfills produce methane gas = global warming!

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROWN</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>GREEN</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>COMPOST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaves, stew, woody materials</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grass, food scraps, manures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>COMPOST HAPPENS</th>
<th>AIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MACRO-ORGANISMS</th>
<th>MICRO-ORGANISMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthworms, insects, etc</td>
<td>Bacteria, fungi, microbes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**What to Compost?**
**What Not to Compost - The OUT List**

**Leave Out/Reason Why**
- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs
  - Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
- Coal or charcoal ash
  - Might contain substances harmful to plants
- Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants
  - Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
- Fats, grease, lard, or oils
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Meat or fish bones and scraps
  - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)
  - Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides
  - Might kill beneficial composting organisms

**What to Compost - The IN List**
- Animal manure
- Cardboard rolls
- Clean paper
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cotton rags
- Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint
- Eggshells
- Fireplace ashes
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Nut shells
- Sawdust
- Shredded newspaper
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Wool rags
- Yard trimmings
How to Compost on campus?

- Partnership with Hilltop Garden and Nature Center (on campus)
- Partnership with City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation
  - Locations:
    - Willie Streeter Community Gardens
      (Winslow Woods Park on S. Highland Ave)
    - Crestmont Community Gardens
      (W. 15th St. near Tri-North Middle School)
    - Banneker Community Center
      (930 W. 7th Street)
    - Butler Community Gardens
      (W. 9th near Fairview)

SDA Composting Process: (Collaboration with City of Bloomington)
The Sustainable Development Association typically follows these steps when providing composting at SPEA events:

1. Trash/compost/recycling stations were set up during meal times. Each station had 3 bins clearly labeled, one each for trash, compost, and recycling (plastics and aluminum cans). NO MEAT OR DAIRY signs were posted next to each composting station (these scraps were diverted to the trash).

2. All other garbage cans in the area were removed so that people had to go to the trash/compost/recycling station(s).

3. Each station had at least one volunteer helping direct people where to put food scraps, to help scrape plates, etc.

4. If multiple meals were being served throughout the day, the compost bins were emptied and restocked with new bags for each meal (so that the food was not left out in the open all day). Full compost bags were tied shut and stored out of sight until the end of the day.

Based on volume, at the end of every day or every other day, compost material was delivered to the Willie Streeter Community Gardens (S. Highland Ave.). Composting crates are located next to the gardens, and signs delineate which bins are suitable for new food scraps. Wood chips and green material (usually weeds that have been pulled from the
gardens) should be added on top of the food scraps and mixed around.

5. SDA volunteers returned to the garden to help turn the bins and learn the full composting process.

Note: The composting area is open to the public and all enriched soil is used for the community gardens.

**Other Options:**
- Take it home!
- Working on developing campus composting facilities...

**Resources:**
- [EPA: Composting Basics](https://www.epa.gov/recycling/composting-basics)
- [HowtoCompost.org](https://www.howtocompost.org)
- [City of Bloomington: Waste Management Basics](https://www.bloomington.in.gov/departments/environmental-business/waste-management)
- [Composting Guide: What you need to know about composting](https://www.recyclenation.com/composting-guide-what-you-need-know-composting)