

# Office Composting Project: Using bicycles to collect food waste

Presenters:

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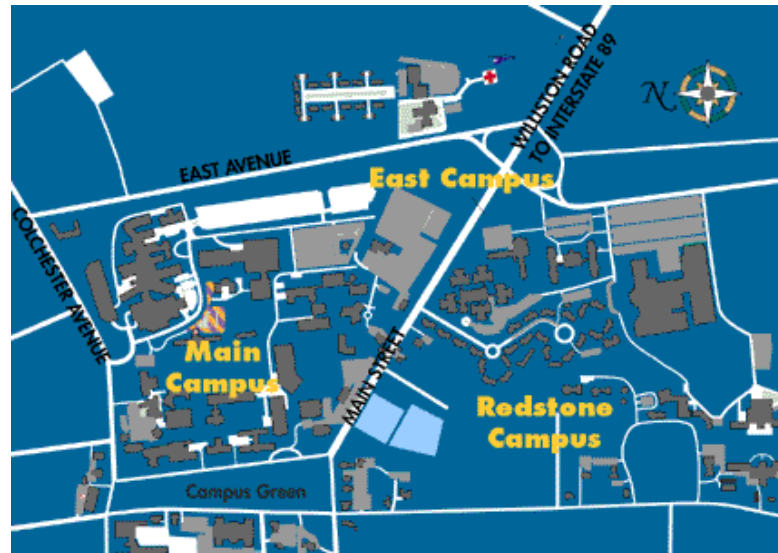
# Collecting Organics at UVM

- UVM has been diverting organics for composting for over 20 years
- Collection efforts centered around dining halls & residence halls
- On average, **9 tons per week** diverted from dining hall programs.
- Contracted hauler (Casella) collects 5 days/week from 8 campus locations.
- Organics delivered to *Green Mountain Compost*



# Our challenge: How to Expand Organics Collection to *other* areas of campus?

- Staff in office areas were requesting access to compost service.
- Not feasible to route truck to academic & administrative buildings. "chasing banana peels"





- One Revolution is a Burlington-based, member-owned business begun in 2009.
- Approached UVM in Spring 2011 with idea of collecting food waste via bicycle.
- Company now employs students affiliated with UVM Bike Users Group (BUG).
- Company is a “certified vendor” at UVM.



# Summer Pilot Program

- Conducted a survey of staff to assess interest & expectations.
- One Rev conducted site visit to each respondent.
- 25 office locations were selected.
- Offices were given small compostable bags, printed guidelines, and a clip to seal the bag with the program URL [www.uvm.edu/compost](http://www.uvm.edu/compost)



# One Revolution - Collection Begins

- One Rev “Rider” collects full bags 2 x per week directly from offices.
- Offices are kept resupplied with bags.
- After every collection, material is weighed, recorded, and aggregated with cafeteria food waste in the UVM Davis Center.



# Video

<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmpr/?Page=news&storyID=14771&category=ucommfeature>

# Program Evaluation

At end of summer, follow up survey of participants:

- NO reported problems with pests, odors, or leaks with the bag itself.
  - 61% said pickup can be reduced to one day per week.
  - Overall, positive response from community:
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- "Program has been a great success, I receive many appreciative and complimentary comments about having this service"



# Program Expansion

- Reissued original survey to obtain new participants.
- In October 2012 program grew to include 45 total locations.
- Reduced pickup to one day per week for most offices.



# Program Costs & Results

- Initial weekly cost for 25 locations: \$130
- Avg 90-100 pounds/week diverted
- Current weekly cost for 40 locations: \$175
- Avg 150 pounds per week diverted
- Cellulose Bags purchased from "Bag to Earth"  
\$0.35/bag. We purchased a full skid 8,000 bags
- Carbon free, human powered hauling = priceless
- Engaging office staff & faculty in non-dining areas of campus = priceless.

# Questions? Contact us!

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