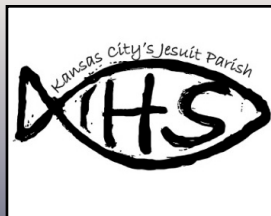


Managing Food Waste in Your Faith Community

Things to Consider, and What We Do at St. Francis Xavier Church

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Why divert organic waste at your faith community?

- Can stink in garbage during warm months and/or draw rodents.
- In care for creation, composting is a necessary detail of a comprehensive recycling/waste diversion program.

Typical organic waste conditions for institutions

- High volume, daily food waste accumulation (faith community + school, food bank, etc).
- Intermittent food waste by office staff, plus an occasional event (smaller faith communities).

Some solutions

Drive food waste to Urbavore (east KC)

- For when you have volunteer drivers who *already* travel for work/home to east KC, or you are located there.
- <http://www.badseedkc.com/farm/services/>

Have compost service pick it up

- For higher volume on a regular basis.
- <http://www.missouriorganic.com/FoodWasteRecycling/index.html>

Contain it on your campus

- For intermittent deposits from events, and regularly deposited small amounts. Is convenient for staff participation.
- build your own compost bin(s)
- <http://solarcone.net/institutions/index.php>

St. Francis Xavier's efforts with Solarcone

- Pooled together interested faith community-households to buy many at once. Solarcone offered a discount for volume purchases being delivered to one location (the church).
- Bought two for the 5-10 staff members' regular use, and occasional food gatherings (picnics, Sunday hospitality after services, food waste from food depository).
- Suitable for all food wastes: bread, meat, and fats included (unlike many regular household-sized compost bins).
- No smell/rodents.
- Technically not considered a compost system, as the intention is not to generate a compost product; but rather to use it as a waste management tool.
- Can be emptied when needed, and applied around trees, flowers, other non-food items.
- In 3 years, we have not had to empty ours at SFX.
- Not suitable for large amounts of disposable plates, cups, etc.

Other helpful actions

- Minimize food waste: encourage members to take what they know they can eat and go back for seconds if desired rather than overstuffing the plate.
- Using reusable plates, cups, forks, etc. or buy compostable.



Solarcone image from Solarcone.net