



If Composting is so Simple, Why isn't everyone doing it?

Did you know Longwood composts?



This is where the pulp comes out and is dispensed into trashcans that are picked up by Dave Love's team.

Compost is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

You may have noticed that sometimes a lot of food is left over in front of the dish room as well as in d-hall. Some students may wonder:

Why is all the leftover food in D-hall composted, how is it done, and why do many students not know about it?

All the food that is not eaten or reusable is put into a giant pulper (pictured) that pulps the food to get it ready to become compost. This compost is then dispersed all over campus.

We researched composting at other universities and one university in particular does a great job with composting; Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech first implemented composting in January of 2009. Longwood also started composting in 2009. Tech's composting efforts now have spread to every dining center on campus; diverting over seven million pounds of food waste from landfills. The university has also been informing students on how to compost themselves by making students and staff sort and compost their own waste in specific dining centers.



Thanks to Grant Avent, we were able to learn about the process of composting here at Longwood. The process for composting food first starts at the dish room (pictured). After the food reaches the dish room, the food is rinsed into a pulper. The pulper then grinds the food and the pulp is then put into bright yellow trash bins. These bins are then picked up and the pulp is taken to an off campus location to be turned to compost. The food scraps are the Nitrogen component and Dave Love's team mixes in the Carbon component to turn the food scraps into compost. The compost is then returned to campus and used as fertilizer.



This is the pulper.

FUTURE STEPS

Here at Longwood, we hope to compost in more locations and educate more students and faculty about composting here on campus. We hope to educate students and faculty through the use of posters and spreading the word about composting around campus.

SUMMARY: Longwood composts everything in d-hall, the napkins are made from recycled materials and can be composted as well. All the compost is returned to campus to help beautify Longwood.