

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## SUSTAINABILITY

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# COMPOST

MSU Recycling  
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# SUSTAINABILITY



## COMPOST PROJECTS

### FOOD SCRAP VERMICOMPOSTING

Pre-consumer food scraps (fruit and vegetable cuttings) and coffee grounds from several campus dining facilities are used in the unique year-round vermicomposting operation located at the Horticulture Teaching and Research Center. Worms and micro-organisms turn the scraps and East Landing leaves into nutrient-rich compost. *Grow Green Vermicompost* is sold through the MSU Surplus Store and proceeds support the project.

### COMPOST CLUB

The Compost Club is an organic waste management service provided to on-campus departments. Customers are given a 20 gallon collection bin that is exchanged on a weekly basis and delivered to the Vermicomposting Project. This is a for-fee service with proceeds going to the MSU Bikes program. Visit [recycle.msu.edu](http://recycle.msu.edu) to sign up.

### SOUTH CAMPUS COMPOST FACILITY

The facility adjacent to the Dairy Farm was developed as a tool within the south campus nutrient management plan. It improves manure handling and provides Landscape Management with a soil amendment reducing MSU's fertilizer costs. The facility uses 12,000 cubic yards (7,700 tons) of solid manure or 80% of the total produced on campus each year and leaf material from north campus or bedding from the Pavilion to produce compost. Over 6 million pounds of finished compost was sold to the public through the Surplus Store with proceeds supporting the composting program.

### ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

Pre-consumer food scraps and some post-consumer food waste is collected from dining halls and delivered to the South Campus Anaerobic Digester. These materials are combined with manure in a sealed tank, deprived of oxygen, in which organic waste is degraded at an elevated temperature. This allows the waste material to decompose quickly and produce methane that can be captured and used as fuel to generate electricity.

