

Project: Community Compost Bin

Current Members: - **Campus Composting**

- *Primary Contact 1:* Elena Gdula; PSI Campus Composting Co-Project Leader (PL)
- *Primary Contact 2:* Zeran Fei; PSI CC Co-PL
- Harmonie Ramsden (Future Co-PL for 2025-26)
- Mila Shulman (Future Co-PL for 2025-26)
- Sam Klein (PSI CC)
- Haley Coleman (PSI CC)

Original Timeline:

- Early Spring Quarter 2025 - End Fall Quarter 2025
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Project Goals

Our main goal for this school year was to devise and spearhead a pilot program for a Community Compost Bin. One of our ongoing programs (which was previously funded by the Green Fund), our Off-Campus Subsidy Program, has shown great success over the years. However, a main barrier people reported for this program was the monthly costs, despite our 50% subsidy. Thus, a free bin available for all students to access on campus became a priority for us.

Not only would the bin act as a point for students and staff to drop off their food waste and other compostables free of charge, it would also have these benefits: 1) It can be used as an extra back-up bin for events we compost at that generate more waste than we originally expected; 2) It has also been used to compost garden scraps from the nearby plots of the RSO Phoenix Farms; 3) It will be able to reach a wider audience of people.

Implementation

Since early this quarter, our bin has been stationed at the Phoenix Farm plots between the SMART Museum and the Young Memorial buildings. Fitted with a lock, students can access the bin after completing a quick composting-knowledge-base quiz, in which, upon completion, Campus Composting will email them the lock code. This quiz became accessible through reaching out to our email, or primarily by scanning QR codes of flyers our group put up throughout campus. So far, we've received 20+ responses from individuals wanting to compost, and have partnered with events such as SCAV and Summer Breeze to utilize this bin.



Outcomes

Currently, this program is a *work in progress*. While we believe the initial implementation to be successful, we've only had the bin picked up a few times due to the slow fill rate in comparison to its large size (35 gallons) and low weekly usage rate. However, we have gotten a lot of positive feedback from students and inquiries about the bin via email.

Furthermore, the current leadership for this project will be absent in the Fall (Co-PL Elena is graduating; Co-PL Zeran will be studying abroad). Thus, leadership of this program will transition to 2025-26 Co-PLs Harmonie Ramsden and Mila Shulman. Our current system of running this program, such as through flyer/campus billboard advertisement and RSO/event collaborations, will remain in place; however, new and exciting ways to engage the student body and encourage more participation in composting and food waste diversion through our Community Composting Bin will be implemented this upcoming school year.