

Project: Hallowed Grounds

Current Members:

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

Original Timeline:

- Early Spring Quarter 2025 - End Spring Quarter 2026 (~1 school year)
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Project Goals

This project is a continuation of one of Campus Composting's main initiatives: Café Composting. So far, we have joined up with Ex Libris and Harper Cafe over the past 2 years, each funded by the Green Fund. Another year later, Hallowed Grounds Cafe continues this very trend. Our main goals through this project/partnership were as follows: 1) Reduce the amount of student-produced food waste in Chicago-area landfills; 2) Augment student and institutional access to and awareness of sustainable waste practices and infrastructure; 3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by rotting food waste. This also furthers our relationship with student cafe workers as we continue to increase our composting efforts across campus.

Implementation

Since Week 2 of Spring Quarter 2025, two bins have been in place and used at Hallowed Grounds Café by their barista team. Only coffee grounds used up by the staff are composted, with the occasional compostable cup or other applicable material. Both bins are located underneath staff counters, out of the way from necessary materials and equipment, yet still easily accessible when needed for disposal. Once full, bins are taken by staff to the loading dock area of the Reynolds Club. Here, they are picked up by The Urban Canopy and replaced with empty bins weekly.

Outcomes

Since Week 2 of Spring Quarter 2025, both bins have been completely filled and subsequently picked up by Urban Canopy, resulting in over 420 pounds of organic waste composted by Week 9! Additionally, during weeks of high traffic in cafes (i.e., Midterm/exam weeks), staff have noticed that bins get filled at a much faster rate, sometimes being filled up entirely before the end of the week. Thus, as we transition into Fall Quarter 2025, we plan to order an additional third

bin per week as needed. Overall, we are very happy with the success of this project so far, and we are excited to continue into next school year as Campus Composting leadership transfers to new project group heads.