

# THE DENNY PROJECT

The Future of Waste at the UW

## What is it?

The Denny Project was a collaborative project between UW Recycling and The UW Garbology Project. The purpose was to measure the waste diversion effectiveness of two programs (restroom paper towel composting and the MiniMax program) in a typical campus building.

## Why Denny Hall?

Denny Hall was chosen because it was broadly representative of a typical campus building. Like many campus buildings, it held trash bins and bins for paper recycling and bottle/can recycling, but no compost bins. It is also heavily-used and houses numerous multi-use classrooms, offices, and academic departments.



## The Procedure

Over the course of 4 weeks, the waste of Denny Hall sampled, sorted, and measured by The UW Garbology Project volunteers, and then the same was done to Denny Hall's waste after the implementation of the two programs for the same amount of time.

## The Results

- Increase in waste diversion from 42.6% to 52.5%
- .83 fewer annual landfilled tons from Denny Hall alone
- Resulted in 3.5% lower waste-disposal costs for Denny Hall

## Conclusion

If implemented campus-wide, these programs will have an immense impact on UW's sustainability, as well as its fiscal bottom line. If, beyond this, we can also push for more efficient use of these systems by the UW community, this infrastructure will provide a baseline for truly astounding improvement, and could even push our waste diversion rates to well over 92%.

## Next Steps

- Continue to study UW's waste stream
- Create more visual educational materials
- Increase online presence through social media
- Work more with First Year Programs on educating new incoming students about composting/recycling



CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY FUND



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