

Food Displaced = WASTE

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ippen has learned from the program's successes and challenges that implementing a food waste diversion program can be done by other large facilities as well. She has recommendations for food waste generators to consider when implementing a food waste diversion program.

1. Start with food waste reduction before moving to composting and follow the food waste hierarchy – reduce, reuse, recycle.
2. Measure and track food waste to find a baseline and set goals of reduction.
3. A well trained, involved staff will contribute to the success of any food waste reduction program.

FUTURE GOALS

Through a waste audit in 2012, Iowa Health Systems estimated that an additional 135 tons of food waste could be diverted from hospital and medical center cafeterias. Currently, the goal for 2013 is to include cafeteria food waste in the composting program as well as switching to compostable service and tableware.

Within Iowa Health Systems, four Des Moines area hospitals are participating in both reduction and composting efforts: Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Methodist West Hospital, Blank Children's Hospital, and Iowa Methodist Medical Center. Also included in food waste reduction are Allen Hospital in Waterloo, St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, and St. Luke's Health System in Sioux City. The success of Iowa Health Systems sustainability efforts provides many other organizations in Iowa with a positive mentor and guide to reduce, reuse, and recycle food waste.



DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to providing valuable nutrition to soils, compost also suppresses plant diseases and pests which results in higher quality of plants and crops.