



# OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

IUI is committed to reducing and diverting organic waste through on-campus residential composting. To ensure the success of the residential compost program, only students who are fully committed to the responsibilities that come with in-room compost collection are encouraged to participate. If not done properly, composting can become a nuisance to roommates and floormates, and could compromise the program for all participants.

### **Eligibility**

Anyone living on-campus at one of IUI's residential living communities is eligible to participate in residential composting services.

### **Cost of Participation**

Participation in the Residential Compost Program is offered to on-campus residents **free of charge**.

### **How to Sign Up**

**On-campus residents interested in signing up for composting services may do so by submitting the sign-up form found on the program webpage: <http://go.iu.edu/compost>**

Sign up applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, which means you can sign up any time during the academic year. Applicants can expect to receive a confirmation email with further instructions within 1 - 2 weeks of signing up.

### **Materials**

All composting materials will be provided to applicants within 1-2 weeks of signing up. Instructions for delivery of materials will be included in the confirmation email.

Composting materials include:

- Compost Basket
- Basket Liners
- Educational Materials

If extra compostable bags are needed, you may request them via email to [sustindy@iu.edu](mailto:sustindy@iu.edu).

### **Roommates**

The Primary Applicant's roommates are not required to participate, but they must have the opportunity to partake if they wish to. If roommates will be participating, they must read the program guidelines and review educational materials to prevent contamination.



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### How to Collect Organic Waste

#### Store it in a cold place

When left in room temperature, your compostable bag and organic waste will naturally decompose. Collect your organic waste in a cold place like a fridge or freezer to slow the speed of decomposition, preventing messes and pests. If you don't have a fridge or freezer available, just make sure to take it out once or twice a week to the collection point.

#### Keep it bagged

Store your organic waste in a compostable bag to keep your home clean from messes. Always be sure that your organic waste is bagged and tied when dropping it off at the designated bins, to keep our bins clean. We must work together to prevent smells and pests to demonstrate our campus' ability to responsibly compost.

#### Take it out frequently

Drop off your bagged organic waste at the designated campus collection points at least once per week. Storing your compostables in your home for more than a week will risk decomposition, messes, and smells.

### Composting Best Practices

- Remove stickers, rubber bands, plastic tags, metal staples, and any other non-organic material from kitchen scraps before placing in the compost bin
- Hang up the "What can I compost at UI?" flyer on your fridge or wall for easy reference
- When in doubt, throw it out - as in the trash, not compost!

### Drop Off Procedures

All organic waste must be dropped off by residents at their designated drop-off sites **at least once-per-week**. The frequency of drop off is important for preventing decay, odors, and pests. All organic materials must be **bagged and tied** in the compostable bags provided to residents when delivered to drop-off sites.

### Drop-off Sites

**Ball Hall:** There is a white compost bucket located in every waste station, located in rooms number 2030, 2066, 3030, 3066, 4045, 4095 (lounge).

**North Hall (Floors 1 and 2):** There is a white compost bucket located in every waste station, located in rooms number 1973, 2973.

**Riverwalk Apartments and Townhomes:** There are three compost bins located inside the brick dumpster areas, next to the trash bins. All residents of Riverwalk will receive a map of their locations.

**University Tower:** There is a white compost bucket located in the 4th through 10th floor kitchenettes.



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### **Returning Materials**

All compost baskets and remaining bags must be returned to IUI Sustainability at the end of the academic year or when you no longer wish to participate in the program. Baskets must be emptied and wiped clean before returning. Failure to return your materials will result in a \$25 fee assessed through your Bursar account.

### **Sustainable Housing Intern**

Each residence hall is monitored by our Sustainable Housing Intern who will be the point of contact person for the composting program. If you have any questions, need additional supplies, or want to report any issues, you may contact **Carissa Cullen** via email at [cacullen@iu.edu](mailto:cacullen@iu.edu)

### **What happens to my compost?**

All organic materials are picked up every two weeks by Earth Mama Compost and delivered to GreenCycle, a commercial composting facility just south of downtown Indianapolis. There, the organic materials are aerated and exposed to conditions that turn it into nutrient rich compost within a few months. In the spring, IUI purchases back the compost for use in our campus gardens, closing the loop and eliminating waste.

### **Refer a Friend**

Tell a friend about the residential composting program! If they live in an on-campus residential community and sign up for composting services, you will receive a free IUI Sustainability Sustain Gang shirt!

### **IUI Affiliate Discount**

Have friends off campus or move next year? Earth Mama Compost offers 25% off compost hauling services for IUI students, faculty, and staff in their operating areas. If you are interested in signing up, visit Earth Mama Compost (<https://earthmamacompost.com>) and sign up using your IU email address.

**Questions?** If you have any further questions about the guidelines of the Residential Compost Program, you can visit our website for more educational materials ([sustainability.indianapolis.iu.edu](https://sustainability.indianapolis.iu.edu)) or reach out to IUI Sustainability via: email to [sustindy@iu.edu](mailto:sustindy@iu.edu) or phone (317) 274-2550.

Happy Composting!