



Composting at the Office

Now that the temperature has warmed up, it is easier to start and maintain a compost program at your office.

Throughout Tompkins County, residents and businesses are showing an interest in composting and starting successful programs! Tompkins County businesses, institutions, and organizations that generate large amounts of food waste can take advantage of a commercial composting service through Cayuga Compost, 387-6826. This local operation provides a food scrap collection and composting service via a weekly removal of full compost containers in exchange for clean ones.

By composting, there is an opportunity for a business to experience financial savings by decreasing current trash service.

Cayuga Compost has helped Tompkins County businesses and large institutions divert approximately 20 tons of organic waste from going to landfills each week. That is equivalent in weight to almost 3 full-grown male elephants!

Smaller businesses can collect food scraps and bring them home or start an onsite-composting program! Composting onsite may not work for everyone. Contact Adam Michaelides of [Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension](#) to learn more about composting at your business.

Did you know that the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) accepts yard waste for composting? If you are planning to do some landscaping at your office, consider bringing your yard waste to the RSWC. You can bring: leaves, grass clippings, and brush. Please remember, no brush over 6" in diameter and one pick-up truck load or less per trip.

If you would like to find out more about composting services at your office please call Leo Riley at 273-6632.



Universal Waste





Contrary to popular belief, universal waste is generated not only in industrial settings typically associated with hazardous wastes, but also in schools, office buildings, and medical facilities.

Universal waste includes common items, such as hazardous batteries, certain pesticides, mercury-containing thermostats, and bulbs (lamps), such as neon or argon commonly used in the electric sign industry, HID bulbs, including mercury vapor bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs, and are used for streetlights, floodlights, parking lots, and industrial lighting, as well as fluorescent bulbs including compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs).

Businesses should be concerned about universal wastes because if they are not properly disposed of they are considered hazardous waste.

Businesses that are Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQGs) are exempt from some strict waste management regulations, which are based on the amount of hazardous waste generated and stored at the facility.

CESQGs can take some materials to the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) for free or at a small fee. The RSWC accepts:

-  Computers & some electronics
-  Fluorescent tubes & CFLs
-  Batteries
-  Pesticides

Businesses that are not CESQGs must contract directly with a licensed hazardous waste contractor in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

For assistance in determining your eligibility as an exempt generator, please contact the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) or the [Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division](#) at 273-4496.



World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on the 5th of June. It is one of the primary methods through which the United Nations Environment Programme encourages worldwide awareness of the environment to attract political attention and increase action.

2008's motto is "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy" by focusing on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them.

Ways to Get Your Office Involved:



- ⌘ Carpool, walk, bike, or use mass transportation to get to work.
- ⌘ Launch an office initiative to adopt sound environmental practices.
- ⌘ Plant a tree.

For more information and ideas about how to participate in WED visit www.unep.org/wed/2008/english!

Everyone's Going Green!

Being a "green" business is very marketable today, and it seems that you see more and more of reports of green initiatives.

We see magazines articles and TV specials about ways to go green. We see large corporations starting environmental initiatives and policies, or stores carrying green products.

Major League Baseball (MLB) is getting in on the action - not just for the fans but also for the players and MLB employees. MLB has partnered with National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to launch a league-wide initiative called the "Team Greening Program". If the team needs advice they can just visit the online resource, NRDC Team Greening Advisor™.

As a ReBusiness Partner, you are on the forefront of this ever-growing trend to go green, giving you a competitive edge, and making you a leader in waste reduction.

ReBusiness Spotlight: Shortstop Deli



Since becoming a ReBusiness Partner, **Shortstop Deli** has strengthened their recycling, waste reduction, and composting program.

In addition to providing recycling containers for employees, Shortstop also has recycling bins for customers.

Shortstop reuses milk crates, pickle buckets, and plastic totes from their suppliers, and recycles toner cartridges. This greatly reduces waste associated with packaging, and is a great example of reuse.

Through the composting program Shortstop, collects food waste and paper products. The business also purchases biobased takeout drink cups. In 2007, Cayuga Compost collected an estimated 18.63 tons of compost from Shortstop.

Shortstop Deli is open 24 hours and is located at 200 W. Seneca St., or on the web at www.shortstopdeli.com.



Green Team Reminders

If you are having trouble remembering when your last green team meeting was, here are a few ideas about how to get your team active:

- Call a green team meeting
- Review your 4R Campaign
- Prioritize issues you face in greening your workplace
- Assign tasks to specific members of your green team
- Establish regular meetings and set dates

Before you know it, your green team will be back into the swing of things.