

WMU Case Study

- Krystal York
 - Office for Sustainability Project Coordinator
- Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Student enrollment Fall 2019:
 - 17,051 undergraduates
 - 4,419 graduates
- Dining Services:
 - 4 Dining Centers
 - 8 Cafés
 - 1 Carryout



WMU Composting Program

- 3 Composting sites
 - Office for Sustainability
 - 5 vermicomposting bins
 - Community Garden
 - Static Piles
 - Rotary Drum
 - Gibbs House
 - Hoop house vermicomposting
 - Hoop house windrow/cylindrical systems
 - Static Piles
 - Lasagna beds
- Bronco Buckets Program



WMU Composting Program

- Budget: \$3,000
- Bronco Buckets and Gamma Lids:
 - \$22.50 each
 - 30 Buckets total
- Student Sustainability Grant for a bigger project
 - Sensors like O₂, temperature, humidity, and pH
 - In-vessel system
- 4 members on the team
 - Picking up all Bronco Buckets: 2.5 hours/week
 - Feeding worm bins: 2 hours/week
 - Hoop House windrow/cylindrical systems: 20 hours/week
 - Researching: 3 hours/week
 - Harvesting compost: 3 hours/week

WMU Student/Educational Involvement

- Volunteer Hours
 - Composting: Tue. 11a-3p
 - Community Garden: Wed. 1-4p
 - Gibbs House: Fri. 1-4p
- Biology Department Testing
 - Biology class will be testing our soil for one of their labs
 - Graduate student researching into the microbial content/data sequencing
- Composting workshops
- Presentations:
 - Lee Honors College
 - Residence Halls
 - Classes
- Bronco Buckets program
- Student Sustainability Grant
- Student Employees at the Dining Halls separating scraps

Success, Challenges, and Advice

Success

- Connections with Departments
 - Landscape Services
 - Facilities Management
 - Dining Services
 - Biology
 - 15+ Departments with Bronco Buckets
- Transitioning one Hoop House to composting
- Research based

Challenges

- Budget
 - Using what we have before funding something bigger
- Number of Employees
- Efficient Harvesting Methods
- Getting static piles warm enough to kill weed seeds

Advice

- Demonstrate the need and the desire on-campus and in your community and communicate that need and your growth with others to show how it could help everyone.