



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

Proclamation 31-05

A Proclamation to Encourage the Usage of the Office of Sustainability's Composting Program

Authored by: Senator Jess Meaders; School of Public and International Affairs Senator

Sponsored by: Senator Hannah Woodward; Odum School of Ecology Senator

WHEREAS, United States colleges produce an estimated 22 million pounds of food waste every year in offices and break rooms;¹ and,

WHEREAS, organic waste in landfills generates, methane, a potent greenhouse gas and by composting those methane emissions are significantly reduced;² and,

WHEREAS, the EPA tells us that 20-30% of what we throw away is food scraps and other natural waste that could be composted;² and,

WHEREAS, the University of Georgia's Office of Sustainability runs a Departmental Composting Program in which food scraps (coffee grounds, fruit peels, etc.), organic waste, and paper towels from break rooms are collected weekly; and,

WHEREAS, the Departmental Composting program collects between 400 and 600 pounds of food waste a week from about 60 buildings;³ and,

WHEREAS, through this and other sustainability programs, UGA takes about 10,000 cubic yards of organic material out of the landfill each year;³ and,

¹ Srebotnjak, Tanja. "Food Waste At U.S. Colleges And What To Do About It." *The Huffington Post*, TheHuffingtonPost.com, 24 Aug. 2016, www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/food-waste-at-us-colleges-and-what-to-do-about-it_us_57bcbc22e4b007f1819a1070#_ftn2.

² Sparrow, Sommer. "Food Waste in Athens: What's Being Done." *Grady College*, University of Georgia, 25 Oct. 2017, grady.uga.edu/fiveseventy/food-waste-in-athens-whats-being-done/.

³ Martin, Saleen. "Zero Waste UGA." *UGA Today*, 8 Mar. 2017, news.uga.edu/zero-waste-uga/.

WHEREAS, this organic waste is brought to the large, effective compost systems managed by the UGA Grounds Department; and,

WHEREAS, only 64 buildings of the over 300 buildings on campus are currently participating in the Departmental Composting Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Sustainability has made an effort to encourage composting on campus and has interns working hard for this program; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, the 31st Administration of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body, encourages faculty and staff members to request compost bins for their offices and break rooms by emailing compost@uga.edu; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, UGA faculty and staff are encouraged to actually commit to composting in their offices and breakrooms; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY PROCLAIMED, the 31st administration thanks members of UGA faculty and staff for their support of aiding the environmentally-friendly and the sustainable efforts being made on our campus.