



COUNTY CAMPUS FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING — WHEATON, IL

PROJECT DETAILS

LOCATION

City of Wheaton

ISSUE

County Campus cafeterias and jail generate food scraps that generate GHG emissions when landfilled.

SOLUTION

Collect food scraps and compost in an aerobic digester.

BENEFIT

Composted food scraps reduce GHG emissions from food waste & creates an eco-friendly soil amendment.

DISTRICTS REPRESENTED

US Senate - Illinois

US Representative District 3

IL Senate District 24

IL Representative District 47

County Board District 4



PROJECT HISTORY & INFORMATION

DuPage County has three cafeterias operated by the Care Center's Dining Services. Food is prepped and distributed to patients in the Care Center and then sold to employees and the public in cafeterias in the JTK Administration Building and the Judicial Office Facility. Food is also prepped in the jail for inmates.

Due to these activities, the County generates more than 400 lbs. of food waste on a daily basis.

The U.S. EPA has prioritized the composting of food as a method to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions in the U.S. The EPA estimates that each year U.S. food loss and waste embodies 170 million metric tons of GHG emissions. This waste could be converted into soil amendment that could capture carbon.

Research has found that methane emissions from food waste in landfills far exceeds emissions generated from composting.

A composting program could reduce the County's emissions more than 47.45 tons of CO₂eq annually.

- Current estimate for program: **\$180,000**