



IUPUI OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

# Sustainable Waste Management in Higher Education

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

SECTION 1

# National Waste Trends

# Zero Waste

- Mainly on the coasts in cities with zero waste policies
  - IUPUI did it in summer 2016! 😊
- Infuses waste management, purchasing, catering, residence life, athletic events



# Addressing Community Needs

- Campuses acting as:
  - Community recycler
  - Community composter
  - Re-use center



SECTION 2

# Sustainable Waste Management @ IUPUI

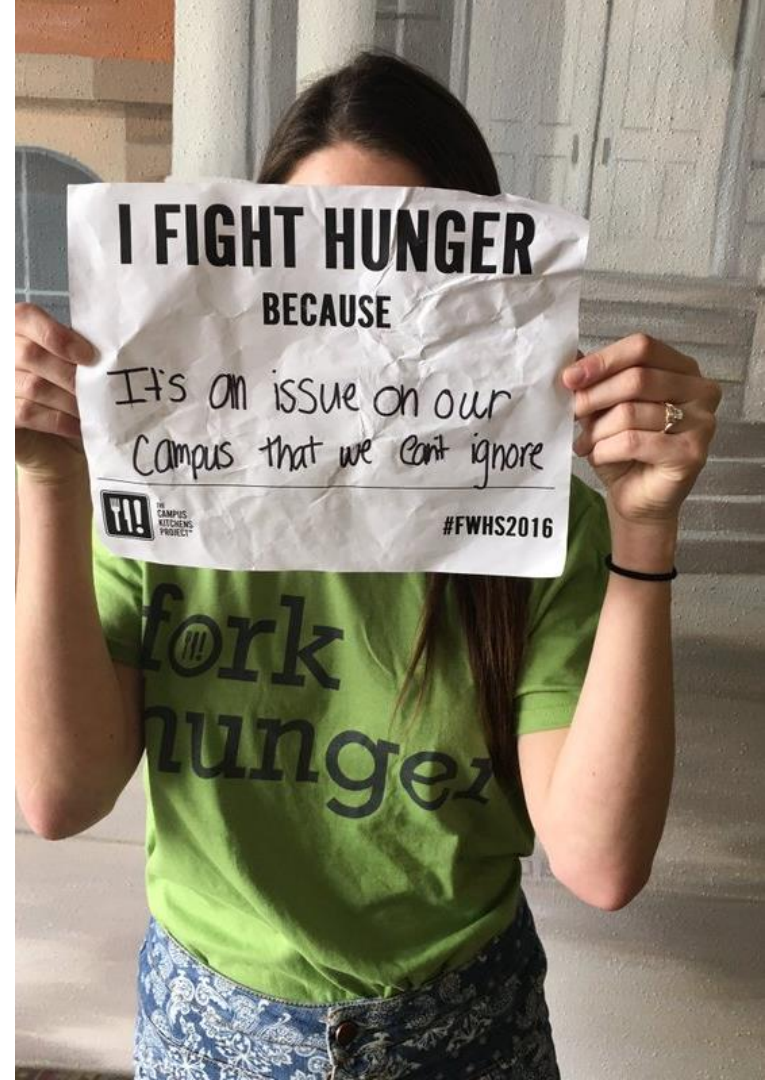
# Bottle Caps for School Benches

- Bottle caps collected and recycled into school benches for local schools
- Started in spring 2015 as part of the NCAA Final Four
- IUPUI has donated 10 benches since 2015



# Campus Kitchen at IUPUI

- Student-powered food recovery and hunger relief
- Since October 2014, nearly 16,000 lbs of food has been rescued and repurposed into over 6,000 meals for the food insecure



# Composting

- Pre-consumer composting at IUPUI's Tower Dining with desire to expand to post-consumer
- October 2016: IUPUI and Butler win Sustainable Campus Competition LIVE! to create commercial compost route for Indianapolis





SECTION 3

# Challenges

# Purchasing

- Altering campus purchasing can be a large hurdle
- Particularly troublesome for universities that are part of a larger system – like the eight IU campuses



# Infrastructure

- Universities cannot to offer services due to lack of local infrastructure or technology
  - Recycling
  - Compost
- Solution requires large capital investment



# Contracted Services

- Universities have no/very little leverage in changing packaging
- Disrupts consistency
- Troublemakers:
  - Starbucks
  - Chick-fil-a



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