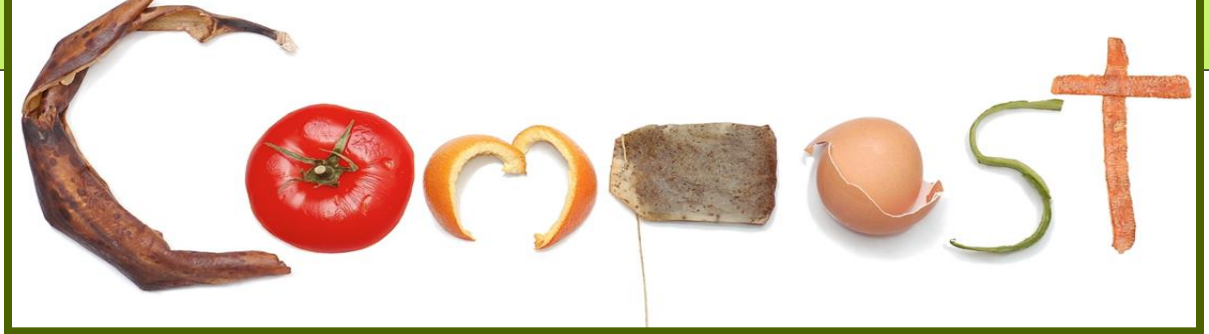




Organic Composting in Healthcare



What is Compost?

- Compost is organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. Compost is a key ingredient in organic farming. The process of composting requires making a heap of wet organic matter known as green waste and waiting for the materials to break down after a period of weeks or months. This process is aided by shredding the plant matter, adding water and ensuring proper aeration by regularly turning the mixture



Compostable material

Examples of what can be composted:

- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Wax and paper cups
- Wax and non-wax cardboard
- Pre and post-consumer food
- Waste such as fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, filters, tea bags, egg shells, breads and cereals



Benefits of Composting

- When you make and use compost, you are recycling instead of contributing to solid waste landfills
- By cutting the amount of food waste in landfills, composting reduces one of the most lethal of greenhouse gas emissions. The most toxic being methane gas
- We are not just healing patients within our hospital, we are also improving the environment they live in



Process

- We use three bins for use within both kitchens within UNC REX
- Once they are full they are wheeled down to our loading dock for pick up
- The bins can hold up to 35 gallons of compostable material
- Once those bins are picked up by Compost Now, they take about 5 weeks to break down and will be donated to local farms and businesses

Training



- Initially we had Compost Now train our staff as a whole on the importance of composting and what they are able to compost
- Training is daily and ongoing
- Once a month, we have Compost Now bring in soil samples for staff to see
- We are excited about our program and hope to expand within the hospital. Other departments have already inquired about getting smaller compostable bins for their units



UNC REX
HEALTHCARE

UNC REX Healthcare

- According to EPA figures, U.S. hospitals generate about 170,000 tons of food waste annually
- Within Kardia Café we use compostable plates, bowls, coffee cups, to-go bags, and catering plastic ware
- UNC REX started Composting with Compost now in October, 2017
- **37,113** lbs. diverted from the landfill
- **4,825** lbs. of Methane avoided
- **7,422.60** lbs. collected on average every month
- Potential to grow **18,557** tomatoes and **3,711** plants