



Brandeis
UNIVERSITY

RECYCLINGWORKS C&U FORUM

Office of Sustainability

APRIL 2020



Agenda

- What we do normally
 - Education
 - New employee orientation
 - Custodial training
 - Green certifications
 - New signs
- What we're doing to adapt
- How we'll get people engaged again

BBold
BYou
BGreen
Sustainable Brandeis



Brandeis
UNIVERSITY

WHAT WE DO NORMALLY



Overview of Brandeis program

- Brandeis
 - 3,600 undergrads, most live on-campus
 - 2 dining halls (Sodexo)
- Waste program
 - Single-stream recycling and trash with Republic Services
 - Compost with Black Earth Compost
 - Approx. 1500 tons of waste/year
- Education about waste
 - Office of Sustainability
 - Brandeis Sustainability Ambassadors



New Employee Orientation quiz:

“Only 2 of the items on this poster are recyclable at Brandeis. Can you find them?”





Custodial training 1-2x/year

- Review signs and quiz
- Answer questions & listen to issues custodians have (e.g. “Students always put food and other things in the cardboard collection bin by the mailroom,” “What about all the pizza boxes,” etc.)
- Express how important they are in the process; connect their work with the data

Q&A examples:

Q: When is it OK to put *recycling* in the *trash dumpster*?

A: When recycling is very contaminated (contains a lot of trash, food or liquid)

Q: When is it OK to put *compost* in the *trash dumpster*?

A: When compost is very contaminated (contains a lot of trash or recycling)

Q: When is it OK to put *recycling or trash* in the compost totes?

A: NEVER!



New student orientation, green certifications, etc.

- Done by Brandeis Sustainability Ambassadors (BSAs)
- Green Club, Room and Office Certification
 - A BSA visits a meeting and walks group through the relevant Green Certification checklist, answers questions, and group fills out checklist
 - Ratings posted publicly





Examples from Green Club checklist

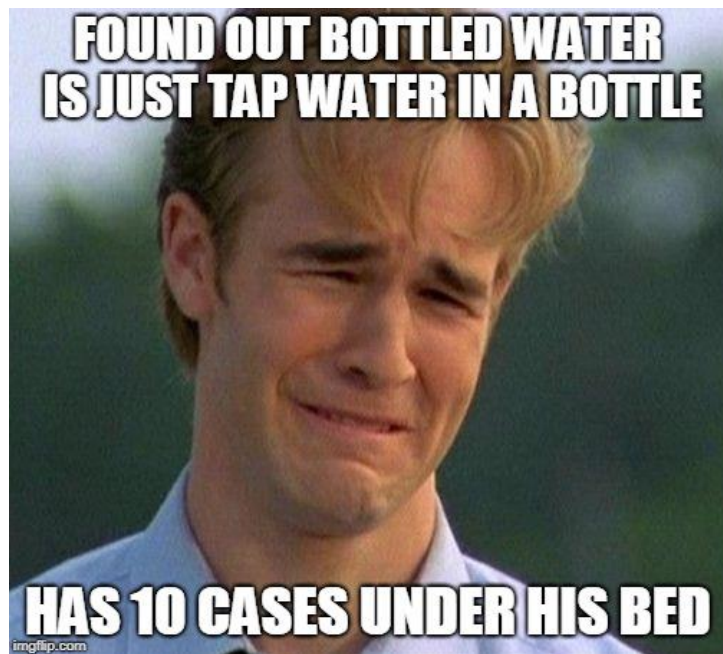
Waste

2. When you hold events with food, how often do you: *

	100% of the time	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	NA - we never have events with food
Require RSVPs from attendees so as not to order too much food and create food waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure that the waste from your event is recycled/composted properly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make better use of leftover food than just trashing or composting it (e.g. post it on the Free Food Facebook Group, bring it to a location where it will likely get eaten, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. When you hold events or meetings, how often do you: *

	100% of the time	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	NA - we never have events with food
Limit the use of single-use plastic items like utensils, straws, plates and containers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limit the use of single-use items in general, such as flyers, posters, decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use reusable signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use chalk to advertise instead of flyers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





Message in orientation: “This is what it looks like when you move out, but it doesn’t have to.”



Old sign

RECYCLING

WHEN NOT ANOTHER SIP OR BITE REMAINS, IT'S CLEAN ENOUGH



Empty Coffee Cups & Lids • Corrugated • Paper Bags • Paper Cartons • Office Paper • Junk Mail
Envelopes • Magazines • Newspaper



Containers #1-#7 • Pails



Aluminum • Tin • Foil



Food & Beverage Jars

 NOT ACCEPTED

Plastic bags or wrapping, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, pyrex or other heat treated glass, ceramics, paper towel, facial tissue, Styrofoam™, recyclables containing food waste, paints, oils, hazardous material, needles, syringes, VCR tapes, CDs/DVDs, scrap metal, pots, pans, batteries, hard-cover books, clothing/textiles, wood/lumber, yard trimmings, 3-ring/spiral notebooks



Sustainable Brandeis

Recycling



Flattened cardboard



Paper



Empty, clear cups



Metal cans



Plastic bottles



Glass

Sustainable Brandeis



Plastic Bags



Food



Liquids

Bin of Last Resort



Plastic bags



Plastic utensils



Cups, lids and straws



Food wrappers and bags



Napkins & paper towels
(if compost unavailable)



Paper cartons

Compost



All food scraps
(Including meat, bones, & dairy)



Coffee grounds,
filters & tea bags



Pizza boxes



Paper napkins & towels



Certified compostable products

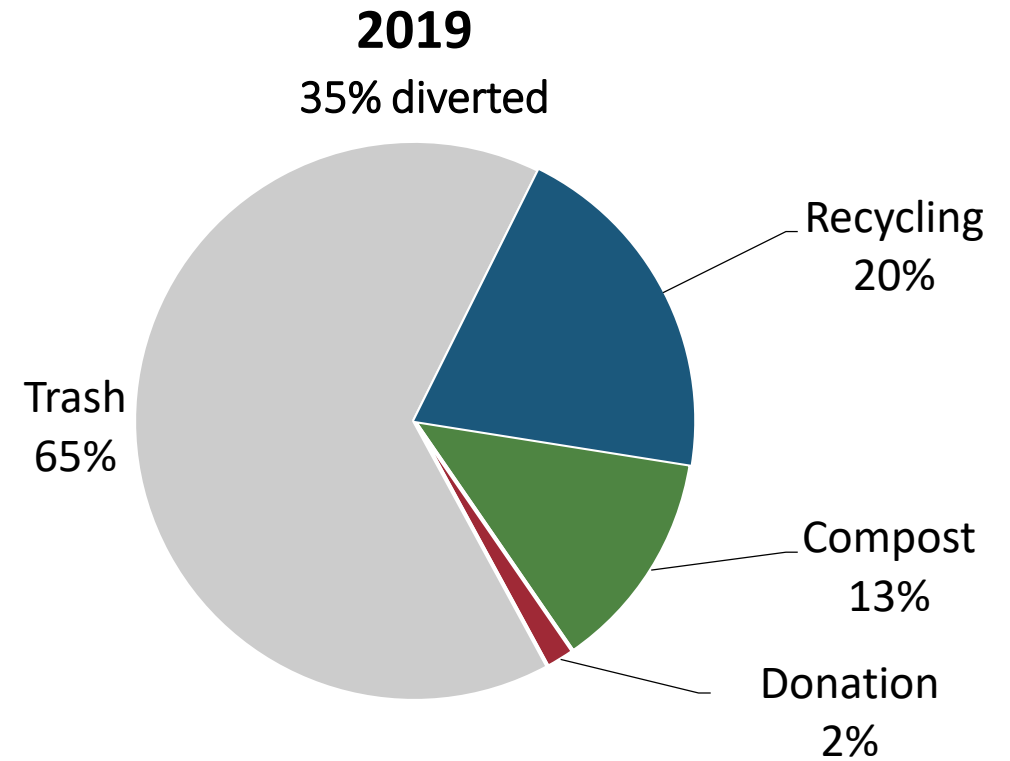
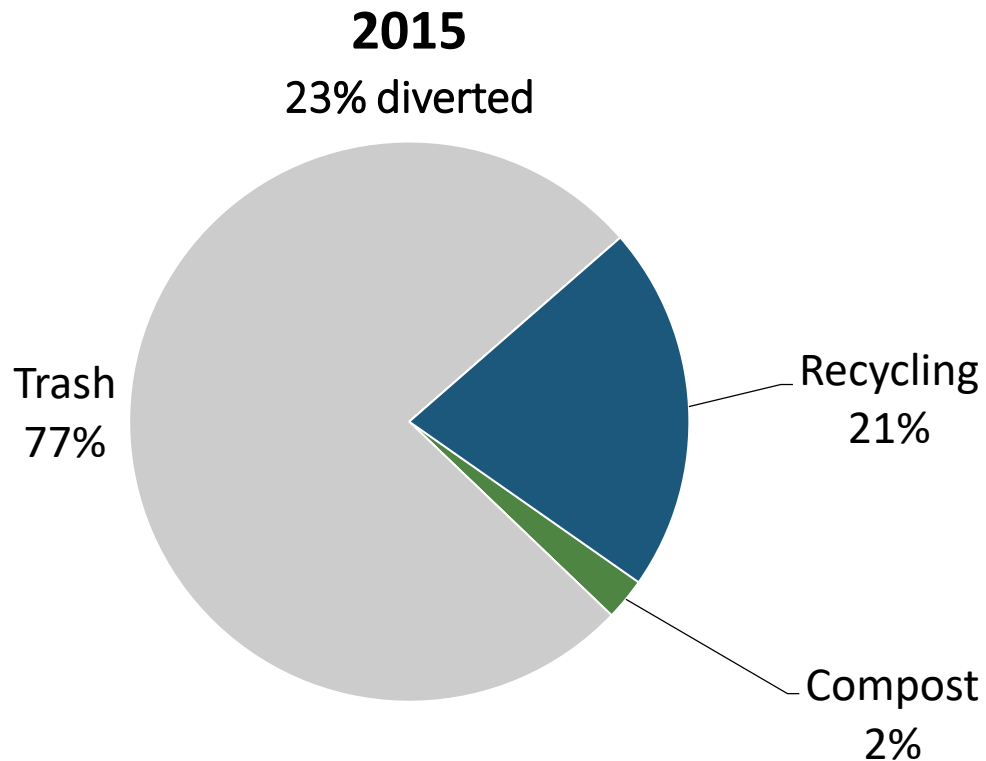


BPI[®]
Compostable
Cert #891051



Data: Compost has been the biggest opportunity for diversion (for now)

- Compost bins are now all over campus (except residence halls)
- Added 40+ more compost bins around campus since August 2019





Brandeis Free Food

Reduce food waste. Be food safe.

Post your event's leftover food type, time & location

Best practice for food safety is to discard food left out after 2 hours.
Use good judgment & enjoy!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brandeisfreefood/>

 **Darcy Howell**
March 8

Skyline Commons! All vegan!!! COME NOW! 😊



 Paige Hildebrand and 2 others

 **Paige Hildebrand**
January 30



 1

 **Elaina Pevide**
March 9

leftover snacks in Rapaporte hall in the library!





HOW WE'VE ADAPTED



COVID-19 Response

- Expedited move-out; students asked to be off campus by Wednesday, March 18
- First, order dumpsters
 - No move-out donation program
- After students left campus, all trash and recycling switched to on-call only
 - Compost pickups ceased except for one open dining hall
- Cost savings
 - Ave. monthly hauling costs (trash, recycling, compost) are normally around \$35k
 - Est. monthly savings due to reduction are at least \$25k
 - Coverage challenge in custodial: 50% of staff out end of March/beginning of April due to quarantine or isolation
 - Hiring for open custodial positions on hold

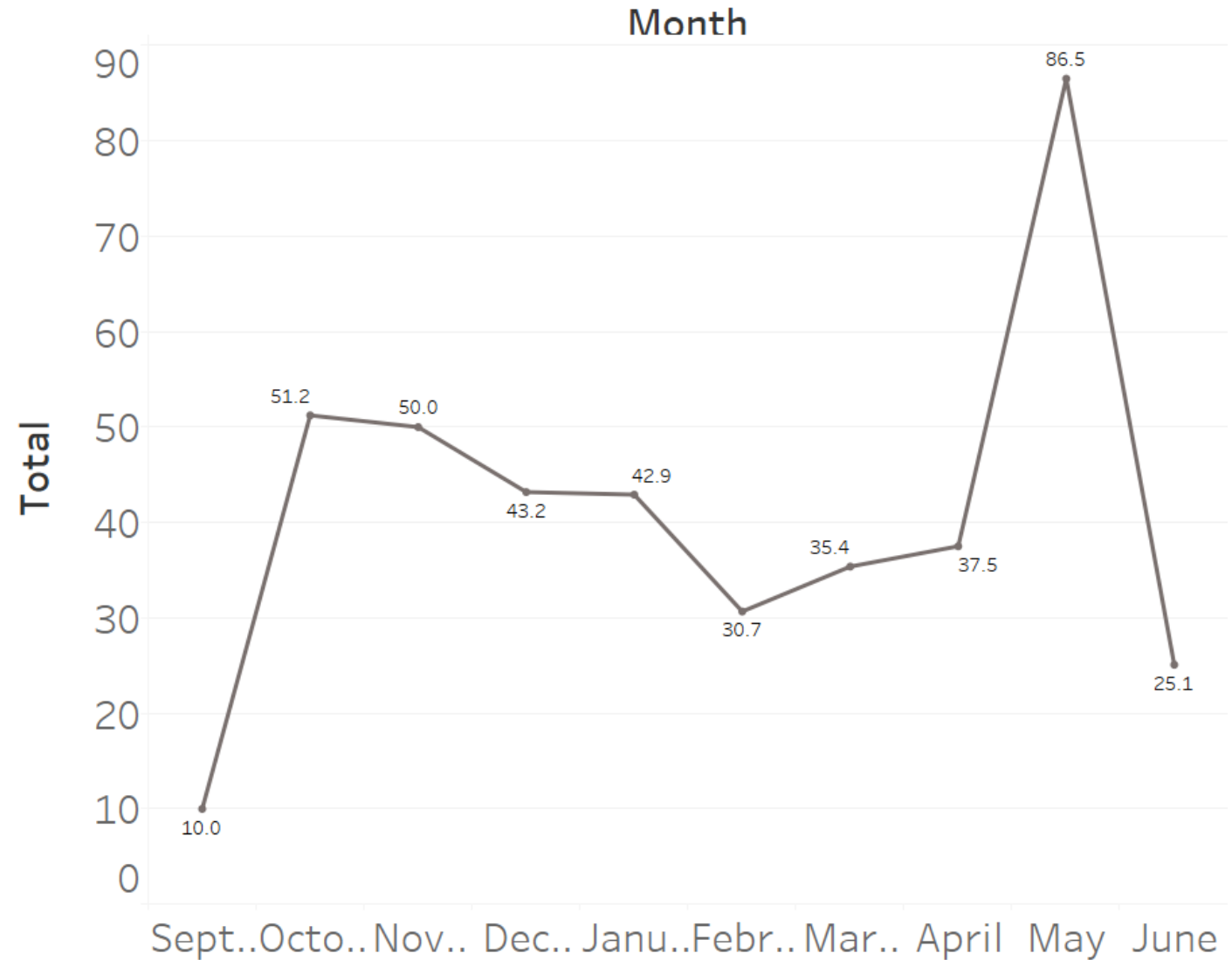


Average waste generated per month (tons)

Move-out is our highest waste time every year

We expect to see this move-out volume for March instead of May this year

ResHalls





Delayed program

- Brandeis *was* to eliminate sales of approximately 10,000 bottles of water annually
 - Bottled water was to be removed from several locations on campus, such as Starbucks and other cafes, by the end of this semester
 - We planned to place water coolers at those locations for easy access to refill your own bottles
 - 1 win: removed from Einstein Bagels location
- We also added 14+ bottle filling stations or goosenecks to water fountains



New water cooler with sign & contest QR code



Empty water fridge with shelf talkers about program



OUR TAP WATER:

HEALTHY, SAFE AND FREE

Our tap water goes through the same treatment processes as bottled water.

Know the facts
BRANDEIS.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY





Plan for the future

- Summer
 - Plan to continue to change over old to new signs once stay-at-home order is lifted
 - Students designing sustainability pre-orientation program
 - Will likely have visits to recycling and/or composting centers in fall if possible
- Fall
 - Trial compost in apartment-style residences once students return
 - No information yet on how fall may be impacted
 - Dining contract change = new opportunity for food waste reduction!



Brandeis
UNIVERSITY

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?

Mary Fischer
mfischer@brandeis.edu