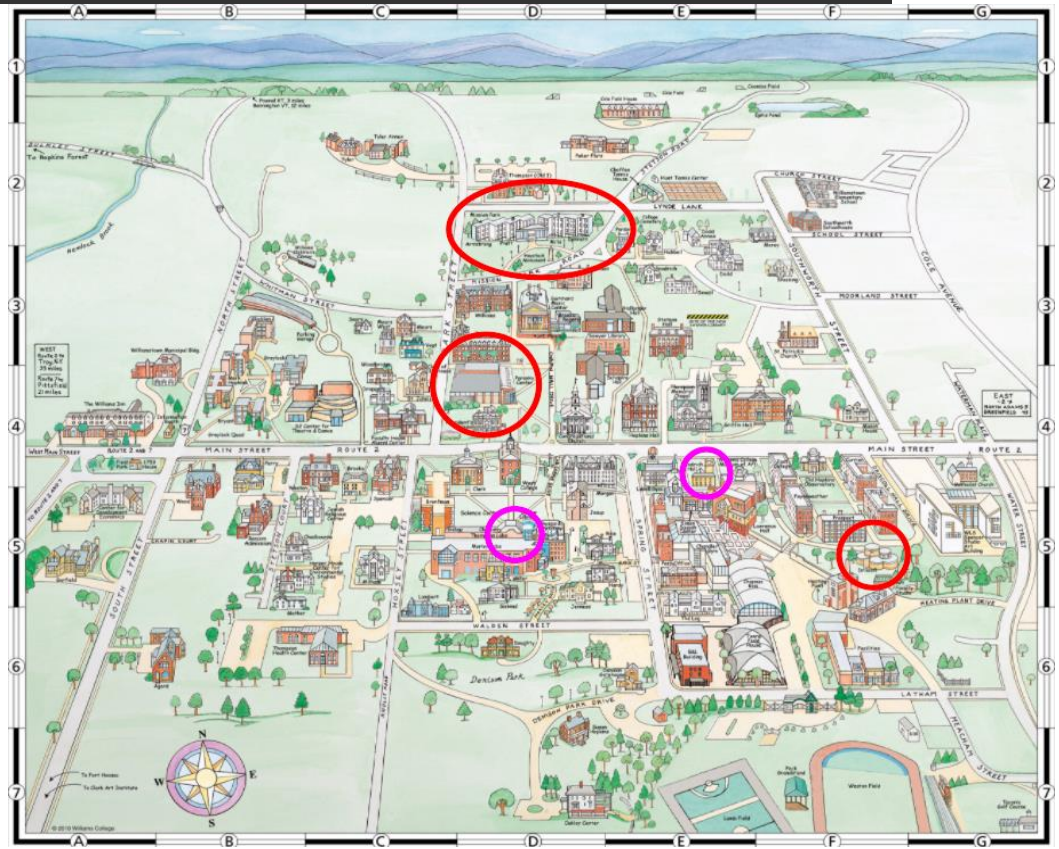
Measuring Food Waste with LeanPath

Williams College Dining Halls

- Self-op
- 3 main dining halls
  - 2 other retail food spots
  - Composting at all main dining halls
- 2200 students



COMPOST
COMPOST
These items are
COMPOSTABLE
Please put all Food Waste and
all Compostable Items in the bins labeled
"COMPOST"
TRASH
TRASH

LeanPath

- Automated food waste tracking system

- Williams and LeanPath
  - Implemented in all dining halls in 2014
    - Only recording pre-consumer
    - In 2015 start recording post-consumer in one of the dining halls as a pilot program

Pre-Consumer

Post-Consumer

Email Alerts

FOOD WASTE ALERT

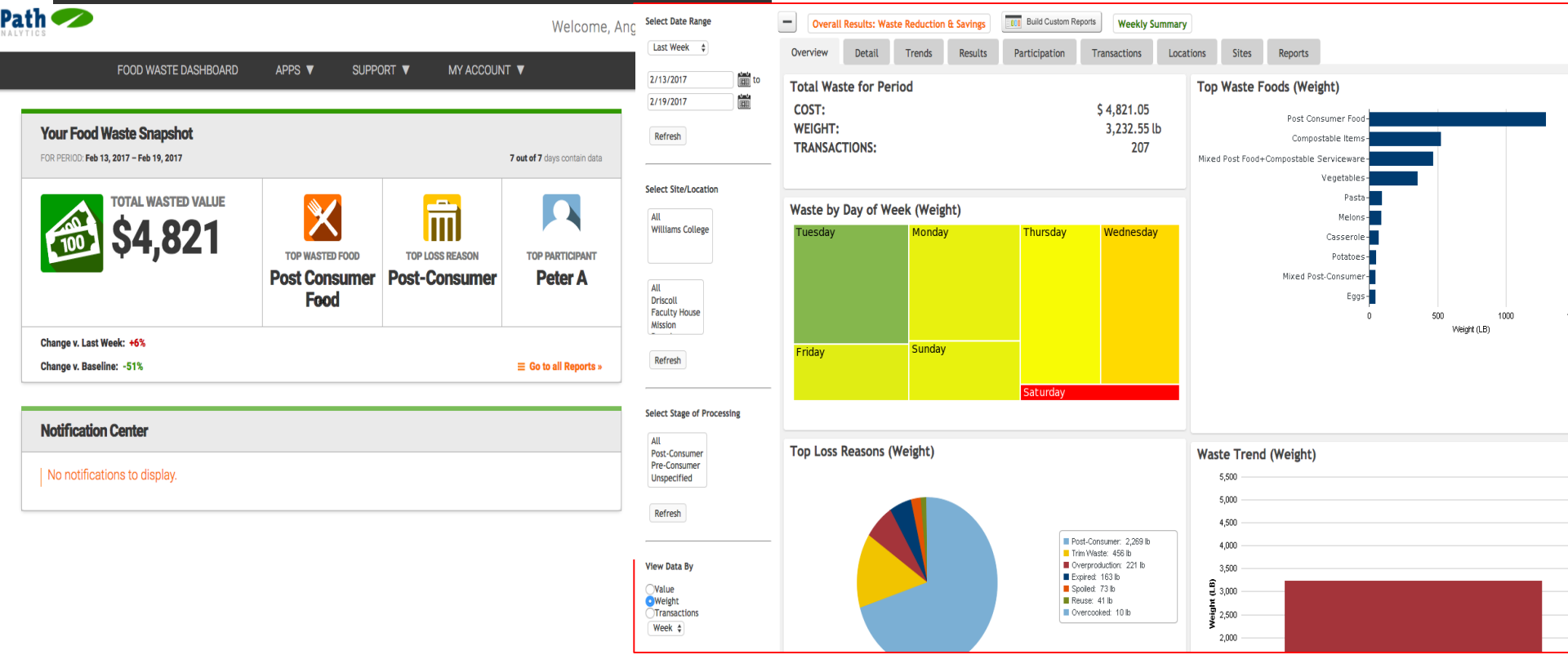
from LeanPath

IMAGE:

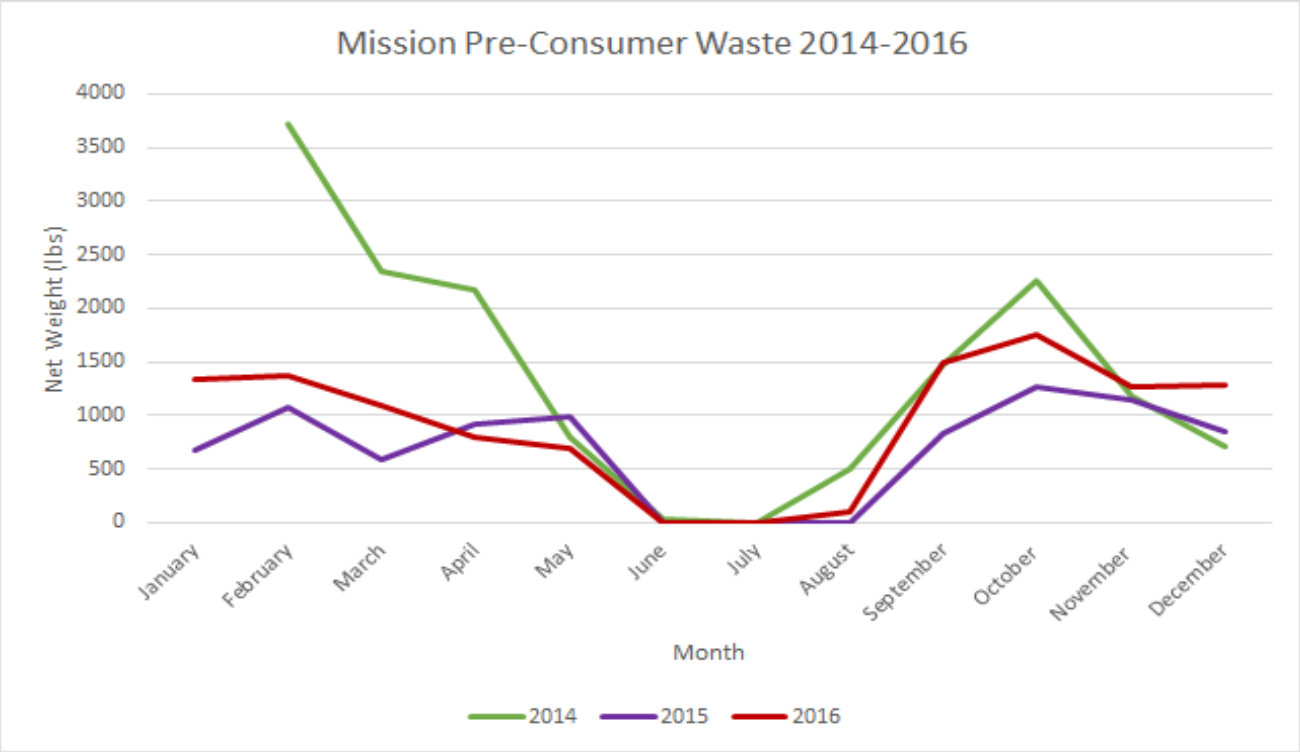
FOOD:	Rice
WEIGHT:	2.0lb
COST:	$1.10
REASON:	Overproduction
LOCATION:	Mission
OPERATOR:	Peter A
DAY/TIME:	May 1, 2017 8:35 F

LOG IN TO LEANPATH ONLINE

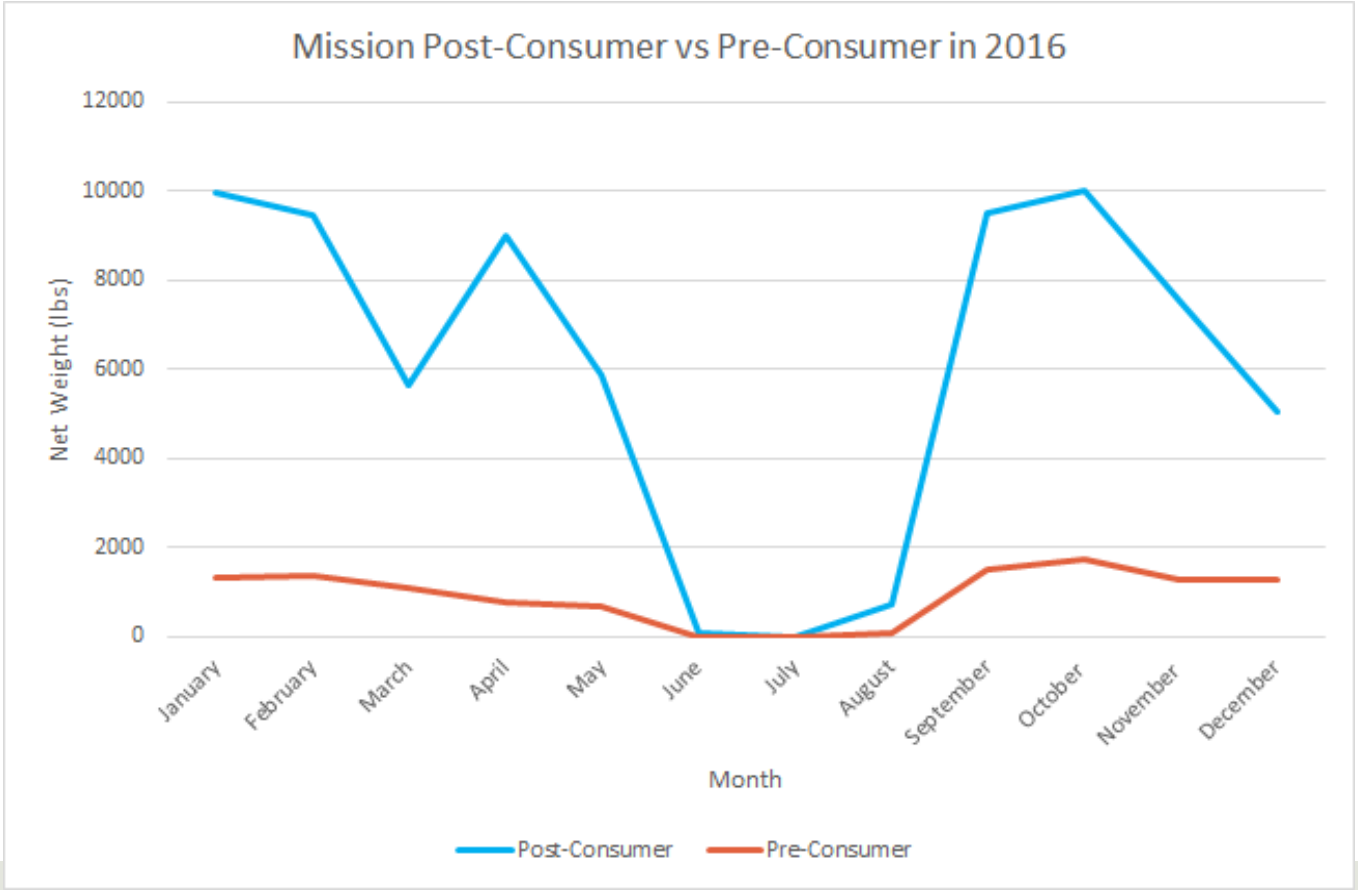
LeanPath Online



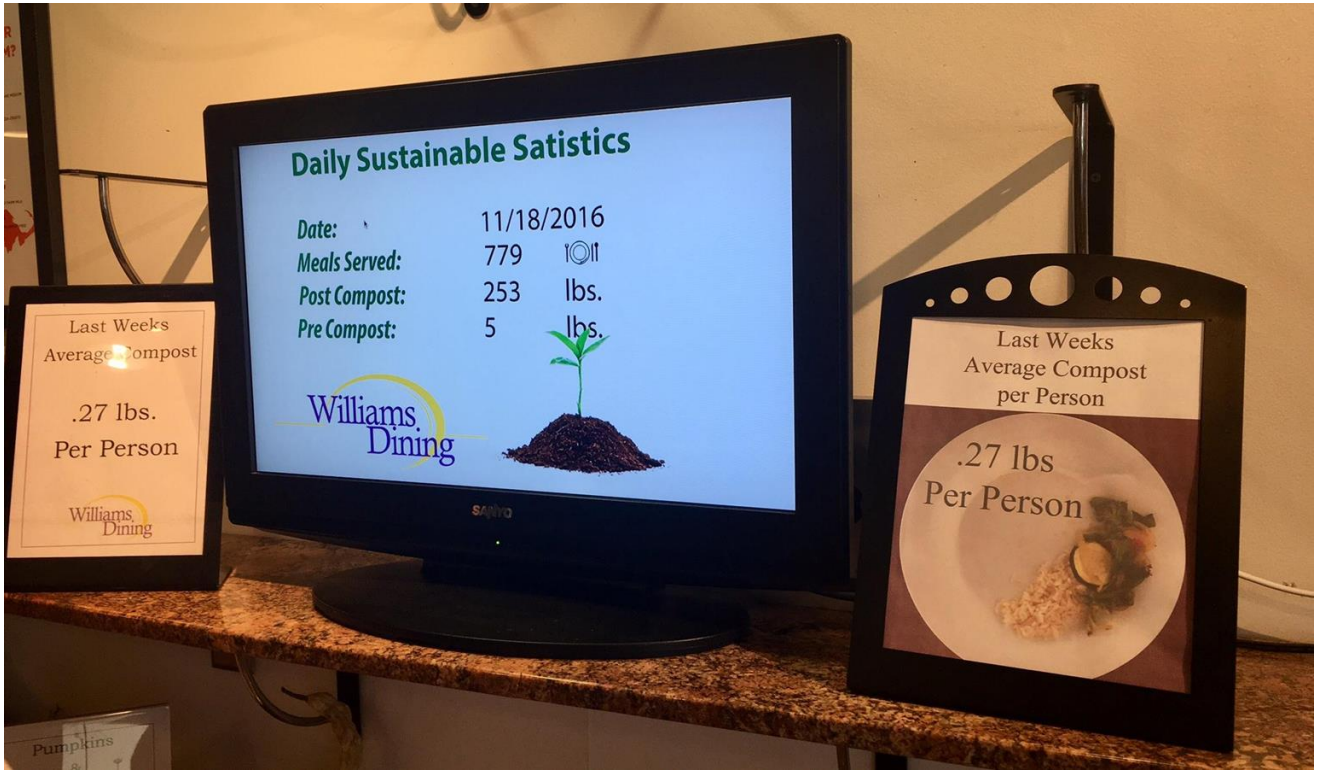
Improvement



Importance of Tracking Post-consumer



Connecting Data with Experiences



Challenges of Deciphering the Data

- Still very early to make any definite conclusion
  - Have only had data since 2014
  - Do not have a baseline yet
- Dining staff still getting used to the tool
  - Facing problems such as unclear or unnecessary labels
- No way of tracking when the system is offline
- All food waste not necessarily thrown out in dining halls
  - Takeout
  - People throwing out food in trash sometimes
- Different dining halls have different challenges and advantages
  - Different menus and programs, kitchens
- Using data meaningfully

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HIGH WINDOWS
ONE PERSON'S
TRASH...

...is
another
person's
NUTRIENT
DENSE
Tenderly Decomposed
ORGANIC
MATTER