



Tufts University GREEN FUND

Tufts University Green Fund Initial Idea Submission

Applicant Information:

Name:

Pragya Handa

Role at Tufts (e.g. Undergraduate Student, Graduate Student, Faculty, Staff):

Graduate Student

Email and Phone # of Lead Submitter:

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Campus:

Medford Campus

Project Title:

Increasing capacity & capability of Tufts Compost

One Sentence Description (*This is how your project will be described on the Green Fund website*):

Reducing the amount of food waste on campus by partnering with a compost facility specializing in food waste disposal

General Application Questions:

1. What project would you like to fund with a grant from the Green Fund?

Partner with a local compost facility – such as Garbage to Garden that operates both in the Somerville & Medford area – to ensure that large amounts of food waste from dining halls is disposed of in the most eco-friendly manner.

With the COVID-19 restrictions, previous programs such as ‘Family Meals’ that package unused for dining halls have been understandably on pause. Even with these programs running, there is a large amount of food waste that is generated with a buffet style dining program.

Partnering with a compost service, rather than handling composting in-house, has the advantage of:

1. Expanding the number of items that can be composted. Under current Tufts composting guidelines, big ticket items such as dairy products and meat products cannot be composted. This creates an onus on students and staff to take extra steps to compost carefully which
 - a. creates friction and limits the amount of actual initiative to compost
 - b. limits the total food waste that can be composted
2. Garbage to Garden has the facility to compost more items – including meat and dairy products – making it easier for students and staff to compost and more food waste being added to the composting bins

- ### 2. Who would you work with on this project? Who would need to be involved? *(For example: are there departments you would need to reach out to for help implementing or facilitating your project? If you are hosting an event, you might need someone to help you set up and help clean up afterwards. Do you need permission from anyone to complete your project? Include their role (collaborator, advisor, vendor, resource) and*

whether they have been confirmed their involvement in the specified role.
Undergraduate students must have a faculty/staff advisor submit a letter of support for their project which indicates their willingness to mentor the proposed project.

Name and Title	Role	Status
Garbage to Garden	Partner	Not approached yet

3. What costs would be involved in your proposal? Please provide a rough budget.

A detailed breakdown of costs will only be available once we have reach out to the partner company, however the city of Medford already subsidizes this service for residents who pay \$99.99/ year for a 12 gallon bin picked up once a week.

This would have to be scaled up for dining hall purposes to a daily pickup with approximately 3-5 bins per dinning hall.

4. What steps would you take to accomplish this project?

Liaise with the company and see if they would be interested in partnering with Tufts on this initiative.

5. How would your project help or benefit the Tufts community?

1. Reduce food waste
2. Redirect some of the water the invariably goes into landfills into commercial compost bins
3. Make composting easier and more convenient for the entire community

What can I expect next?

The Green Fund committee will meet in early October and decide which projects will advance to the next round. These projects will be asked clarifying questions about details specified in this application. The committee will meet again and review the responses to its questions and vote to advance proposals based on those answers. Projects that advance past the clarifying questions stage will then be asked to fill out a more complete application (which can be found at go.tufts.edu/GreenFund) including a budget and a Gantt chart with accompanying letters of support from necessary collaborating entities at Tufts.

When finished with this initial idea submission, please save as a PDF and email to GreenFund@tufts.edu. Thank you!