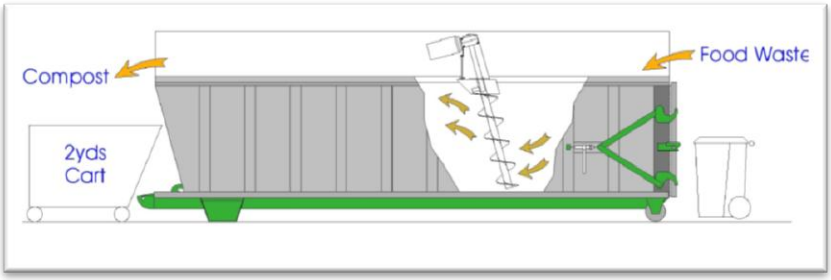
Earth Flow Composter

Housing & Dining Services has invested in a fully automated composting system called the Earth Flow. This enclosed, 30-yard capacity compost bin is located at the Foothills campus. Pulp from Ram's Horn and Braiden dining centers is composted in the Earth Flow. Finished compost is used in landscaping projects on campus.

How It Works



- The Earth Flow can accept up to 2,000 pounds of material per day. Waste is loaded into one end of the vessel by placing the collection container on an automated tipper.
- Every time food waste is added, bulking material is added in a 1:2 ratio. Straw, wood chips, and horse manure from the Foothills campus are the primary bulking materials.
- The inclined auger mixes and advances the compost down the vessel with each pass. The control panel allows the operator to select the number of times per day that the compost is mixed as well as automatically adds moisture to the compost.
- Material composts in 14-21 days inside the bin. The auger discharges the finished compost through an end door of the vessel.
- Finished compost must cure in a pile for several weeks before being used as a soil amendment
- For more detailed information visit Green Mountain Technologies' website at compostingtechnology.com.

Quick Facts

- Up to 10,000 pounds of pulp and organic material are taken to the composter each week.
- Products made from compostable plastic (PLA) need to make two passes through the system to fully compost if they aren't shredded first. These items are screened out of the finished compost and fed back into the bin.
- There is an in-floor heating system that is used during very cold temperatures.
- The Earth Flow is powered off the same grid that receives electricity from the solar power plant at the Foothills Campus.
- Soil tests are run and temperatures are recorded to ensure that the compost meets standards to be labeled organic compost. The composter is a living laboratory allowing a Soil & Crop Sciences student intern to track data, analyze soil reports, and make recommendations to improve the quality of the compost.