

THINK GREEN NEWS

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT UPSTATE



For more Think Green information, visit: green.upstate.edu

March 2015

DID YOU KNOW?

About 24% of our community's waste isn't really waste, but compostable organic material like food and yard waste.

About 15% of Onondaga County's waste stream is food waste.

(Source: www.ocrra.org)

DID YOU KNOW?

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

Tell us how you will be celebrating and helping the environment.

Have a 'Green' Upstate question you want answered or something we should share? Email us at: green@upstate.edu.

LAST OUT, LIGHTS OUT!

If you are the last one in the room, please flip the switch! Leaving office lights on overnight during week wastes \$130 a year. Leaving them on over the weekend can add \$106/year in energy costs!

(Source: www.upstate.edu/green/thinking_green/lastout.php)

Food composting at Upstate

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) lists Upstate University Hospital as one of the sustainability leaders in the community. By teaming up with its food service providers and OCRRA, Upstate is diverting pre-consumer food scraps from the waste stream. In 2013 alone, the hospital diverted more than 104,000 pounds. The main Morrison cafeteria kitchen, Tim Horton's and Espresso Oasis Coffee Bar also are now active contributors to the food diversion program.

Morrison Healthcare food services employee Betty Stroman separates food scraps in an Upstate University Hospital kitchen.



Two restaurants in Armory Square – **Empire Brewing Company** and **Pastabilities** – are now composting their leftovers. Click [here](#) for a full list of other participating venues.

Want to compost at home?

Check out OCRRA's '[How Do I...](#)'

[resources](#) to learn how to do-it-yourself!

CLEAN YOUR LIGHTBULBS!

The dust on a dirty light bulb can absorb up to 30% of the light it's emitting, causing you to switch on another lamp and increase your electricity usage. Rub cooled-off bulbs with a dry cloth once a month or when dim. (Source: <http://www.houselogic.com/homeadvice/lighting/clean-room-light-fixtures/#>)

To learn more about the Green efforts at Upstate, visit www.upstate.edu/green. Want to be featured in our newsletter? Tell us your green story, how do you make a difference at work and at home? Email green@upstate.edu.

THE TRASH AND RECYCLING MYTH...

Have you ever heard or said to yourself,

'Why do we bother to separate trash and recycling?!? The Cleaners just throw it all in the trash!'

HERE'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENS....

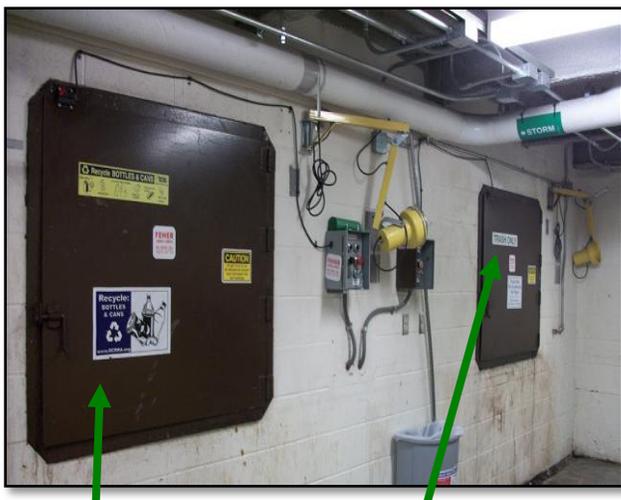
#1



- When collecting waste, general waste and recycling are put into separate bags.
- The **Green Bag** is used for the recyclables.
- A clear bag is used for trash.

#2

Then, the clear trash bag and the green recycling bag are both staged in the same cart for transport.



Note: This picture is an example of a disposal area on the UH Downtown Campus, 4East.

Recycling Only!

Trash Only!

#3

Everything is brought to the same area and then disposed of separately.



Green bags filled with recyclable material are placed in the compactor specifically dedicated to recycled material.

General waste has a dedicated compactor. The cleaner places all the general waste into the trash compactor.