



Title: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING COMPOSTING ON THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON CAMPUS**

Sponsored by: **Lindsay Morse** (Secretary), **Jake Faleschini** (President) **Trond Nilsen** (Industrial and Systems Engineering), **Charles Plummer** (Earth and Space Sciences) and **Shawn Mincer** (Social Work)

Written by: **Matthew Zemek** (ASUW Resolution R-16-20), adapted by **Lindsay Morse** (Secretary)

Resolution Number: 07.09-10

WHEREAS the University of Washington (UW) began a composting program in 2004 by collecting coffee grounds and pre-consumer vegetative food waste from the UW Club and three Housing and Food Services (HFS) kitchens; and

WHEREAS HFS instituted a post-consumer composting program starting in 2007 in cooperation with the Registered Student Organization (RSO) Students Expressing Environmental Dedication (SEED); and

WHEREAS UW Recycling & Solid Waste, a program under UW Transportation Services, is working to expand composting within the UW Medical Center; and

WHEREAS an audit of all waste produced by the University of Washington between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003 found that 43% of all waste produced by the University was compostable [1]; and

WHEREAS effective July 1, 2010 compostable or recyclable food service-ware shall be required for all food service businesses within Seattle under Seattle City Council Bill number 116250 [2]; and

WHEREAS landfills are sealed, preventing compostable materials diverted to them from biodegrading aerobically; and

WHEREAS organic material in a sealed landfill biodegrades anaerobically, leading to the production of methane, a greenhouse gas twenty times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS the University of Washington has received a grade of A- from The College Sustainability Report Card since 2008 [3]; and

WHEREAS an expansion in the use of composting will help the University to maintain its grade;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS supports all current composting programs run by HFS and Recycling & Solid Waste; and

THAT the GPSS commends Recycling & Solid Waste for efforts to expand composting within the UW Medical Center; and

THAT Recycling & Solid Waste be encouraged to conduct another audit of waste collected from the University of Washington; and

THAT the GPSS requests that Recycling & Solid Waste develop and implement a pilot program for the addition of compost receptacles to designated campus buildings no later than the first day of Autumn Quarter 2012; and

THAT, should the pilot program or waste audit justify such a measure, the University develop a plan to add compost receptacles to all student-use campus buildings no later than the first day of Autumn Quarter 2015; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Eric Johnson, Program Operations Manager for Recycling & Solid Waste, and Pam Schreiber, HFS Director.

Presented to GPSS Senate and unanimously approved on April 28, 2010.

[1] City of Seattle Ordinance Number 122751

[2] University of Washington Waste Characterization Study, February 2004

[3] The College Sustainability Report Card