

Improving Santa Clara University's Waste System and Habits

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Problem Statement (objective)

- ❑ Santa Clara University Climate Action Plan aims for a 90% diversion rate from landfill
- ❑ Measured through Waste Characterizations



Barriers



- ❑ Students and Benson employees may be learning to recycle or compost (esp. towards beginning of school year)
- ❑ Flux of new workers in kitchen
- ❑ Disregarding and failing to use compostable and recyclable bags
- ❑ Overflowing bins and not enough of each

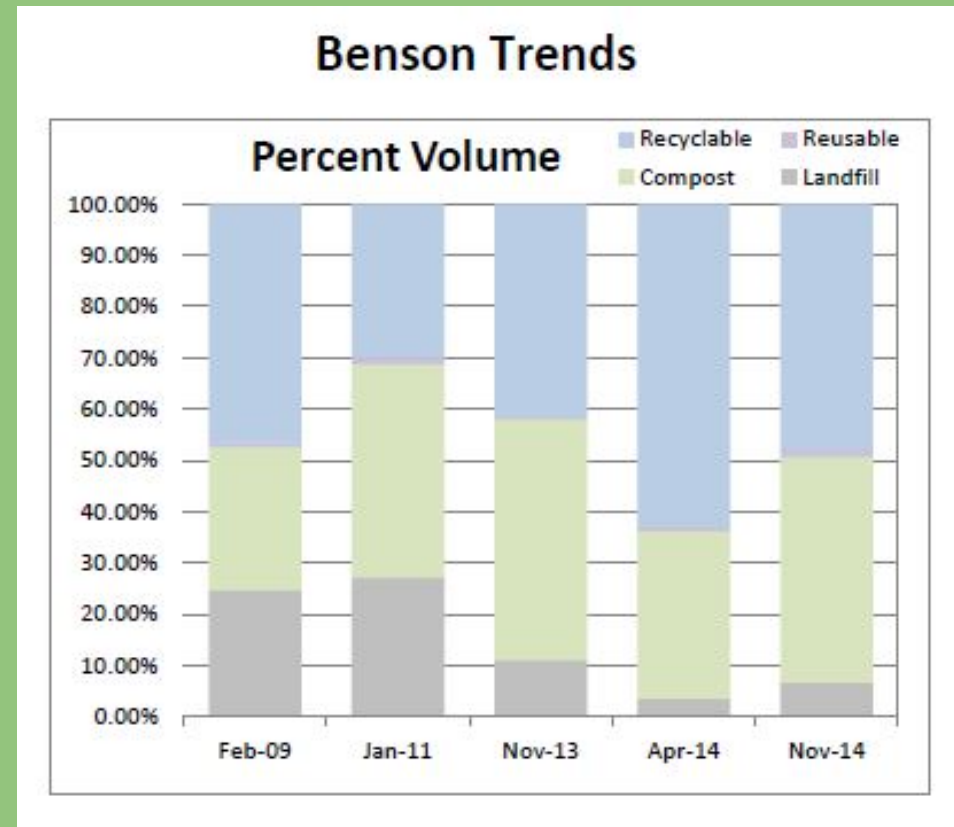
Breaking barriers

- ❑ Help to improve **student waste diversions** through a week-long event called *Waste Week*
- ❑ Help to improve **kitchen worker diversions** by walk-throughs, worker trainings, and implementing a Sustainability Committee of Benson workers



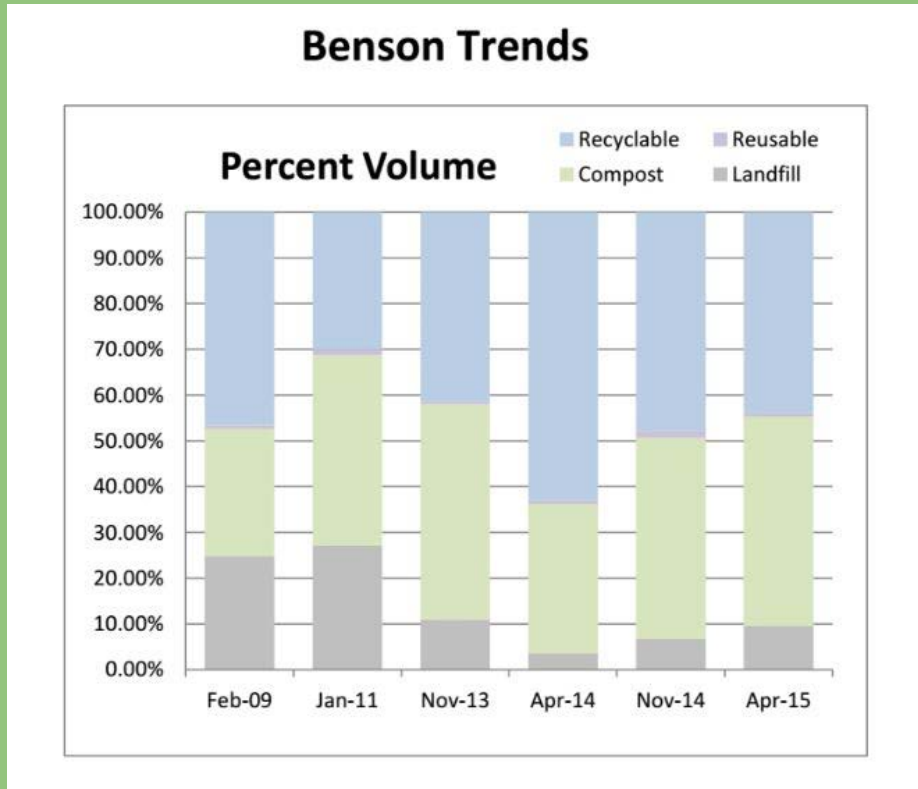
WC Results November 14, 2014

- ❑ 295 pounds of waste in “landfill” bin from the Benson Dock
- ❑ 10 pounds (7%) was actually meant for the landfill
- ❑ almost half being recyclable



WC Results April 30, 2015

- ❑ 303 pounds from Landfill bin at Benson Dock
- ❑ actually meant for the landfill
 - ❑ 5% by weight
 - ❑ 10% by volume
- ❑ approximately 90% recyclable or compostable



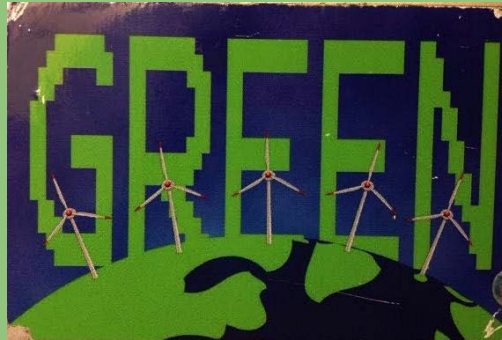
Accomplishments



- ❑ Additional compost bags in Benson
- ❑ Waste Week! (15 student volunteers, 21 volunteering hours)
- ❑ Improved communication between students and Benson workers & between Benson employees
- ❑ Observed current issues w/in kitchen & identified where to make changes (e.g. redistribute & get additional waste bins in the kitchen at every station; putting up additional signage in both English and Spanish)
- ❑ Made students concerns about waste issues at SCU transparent

Next steps

- Check on Sustainability Liaison team for Staff
- Create Benson Sustainability Committee
- Prepare training for Benson opening (Sept. 5th)
- Prepare GREEN club for future Waste Weeks



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