

# Composting at Northeastern; Do you even compost bro?

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Who we are

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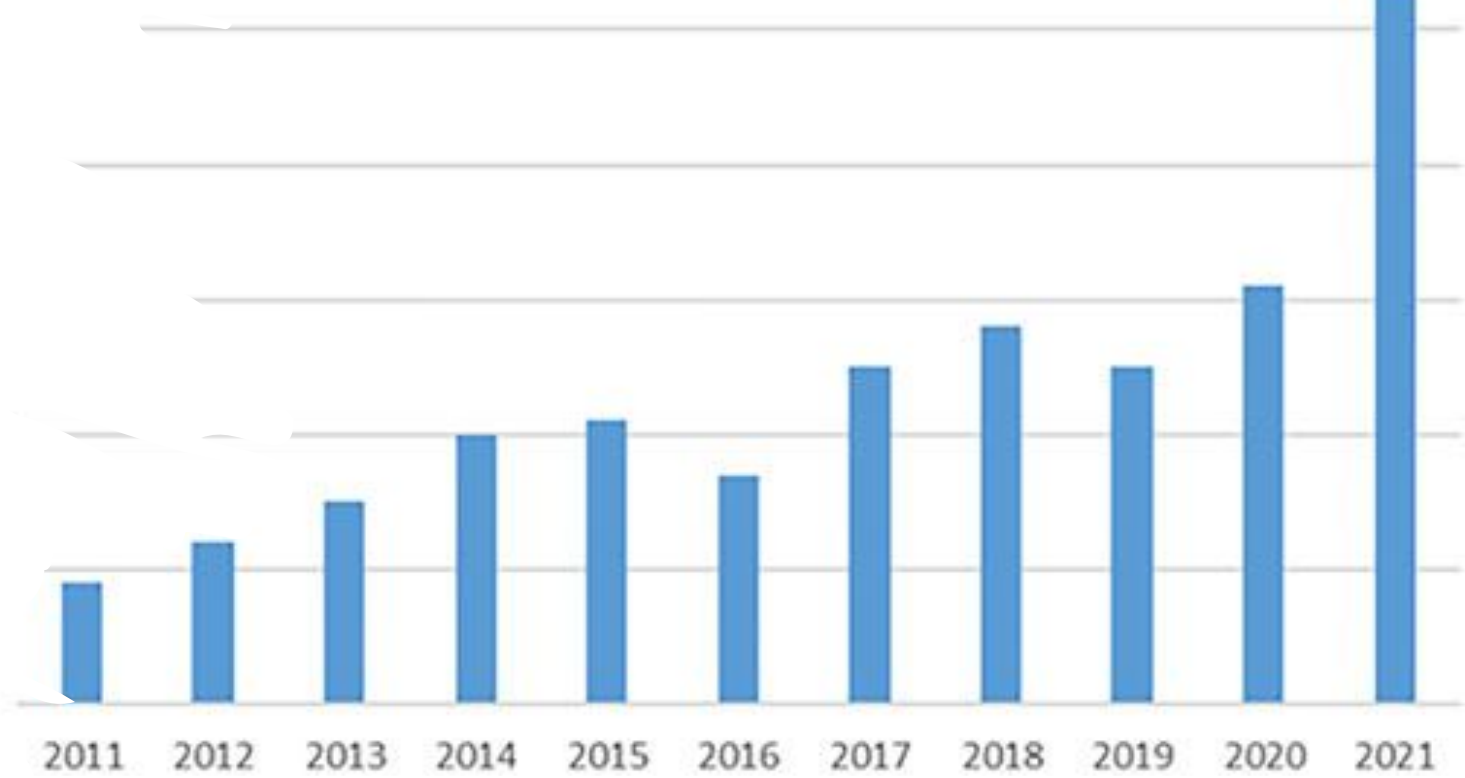


Recommendations  
for CANU

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# Literature Review

- Present estimates state that up to 25% of all waste in landfills is compostable
- Northeastern says its 80%
- Northeastern says 500 tons is composted annually on Campus
- Dramatic increase in composting when Covid hit
- Significant resources available at other schools but not Northeastern



# Research Objective



**EXPLORE COMPOSTING ON CAMPUS**  
Fill the gap of student composting  
habits and knowledge

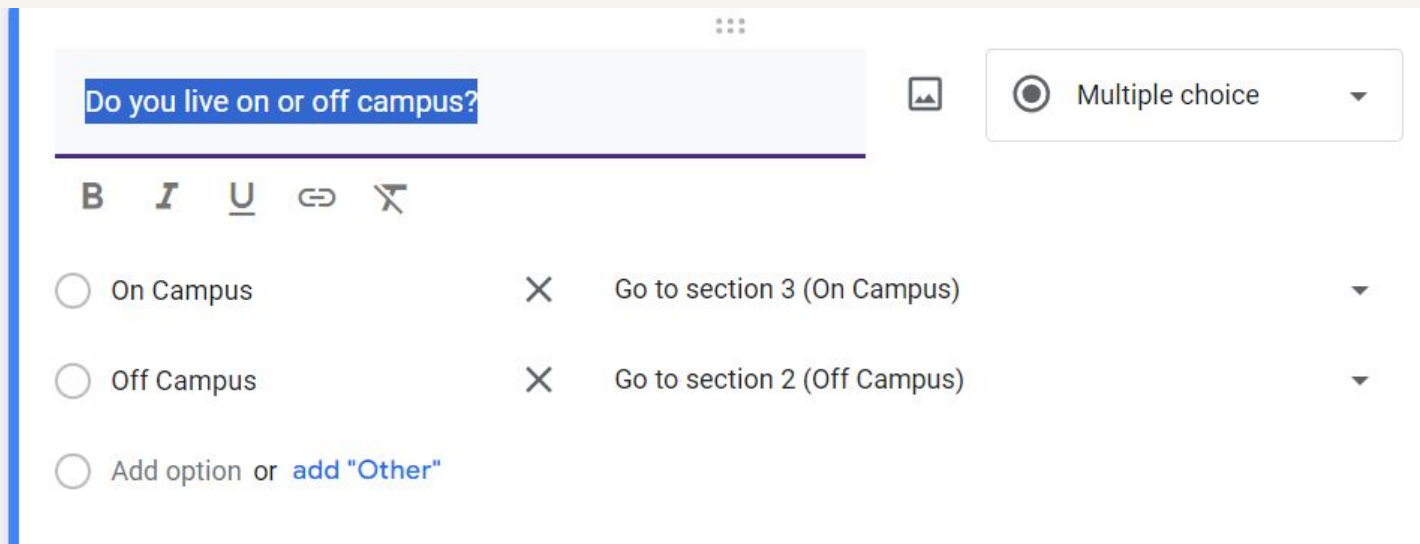


Check **STUDENT KNOWLEDGE** on  
composting practices



Provide **ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES**  
for CANU to better **SUPPORT** their  
**COMPOSTING EFFORTS**

# Methods



The screenshot shows a survey question editor. At the top, there is a text input field containing the question "Do you live on or off campus?". To the right of the input field is a dropdown menu set to "Multiple choice". Below the input field is a rich text editor with icons for bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), link, and unlink. Below the rich text editor are three radio button options: "On Campus" with a link to "Go to section 3 (On Campus)", "Off Campus" with a link to "Go to section 2 (Off Campus)", and "Add option or add 'Other'".

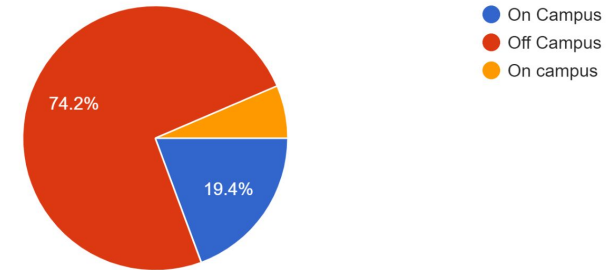
- Campus wide survey
- Split into three parts
  - 1) Demographic
  - 2) Composting practices
  - 3) Composting knowledge
- Will also contain an off campus and on campus portion to better curate the data

# Results pt. 1; Who's out there

- We collected results from 31 respondents
- Primarily folks who live off campus; with only 26% reporting to live on campus
- Respondents hailed from 50% of Northeastern Colleges including
  - College of Arts Media and Design
  - College of Science
  - College of Engineering
  - Khoury School of Computer Science
  - D'amore McKim School of Business

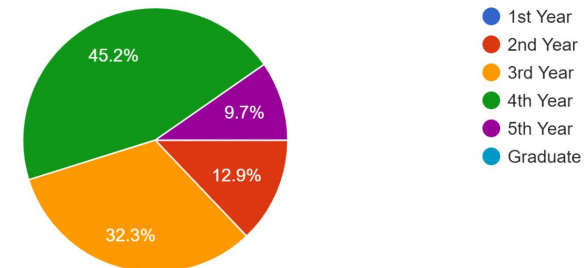
Do you live on or off campus?

31 responses



What is your year?

31 responses

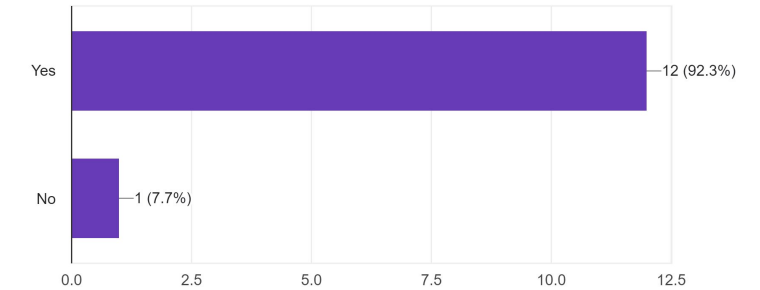


# What do people know about composting in Boston – OFF CAMPUS

- Those that do are unaware of the composting resources provided by the City of Boston
- Very few have even heard of Curbside pickup, they are unaware of the bins at local community centers and are unknowing of what Project Oscar is.
- Few know where their Project Oscar bin is located, much less how to use it

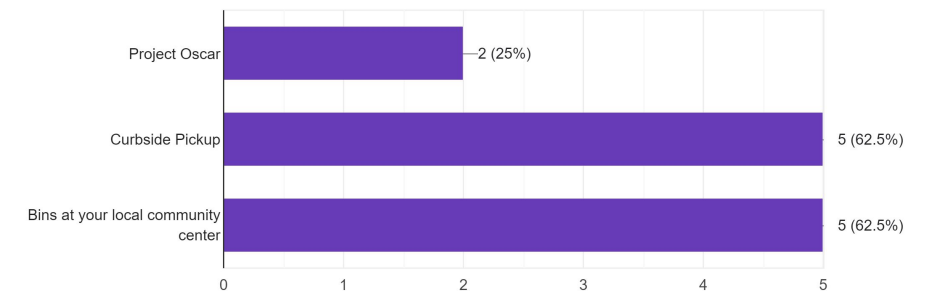
Would you appreciate instruction on how to use project Oscar and curbside pickup?

13 responses



Which of the following are you familiar with?

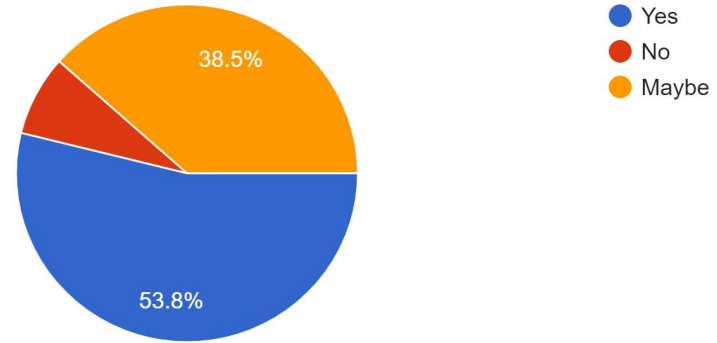
8 responses



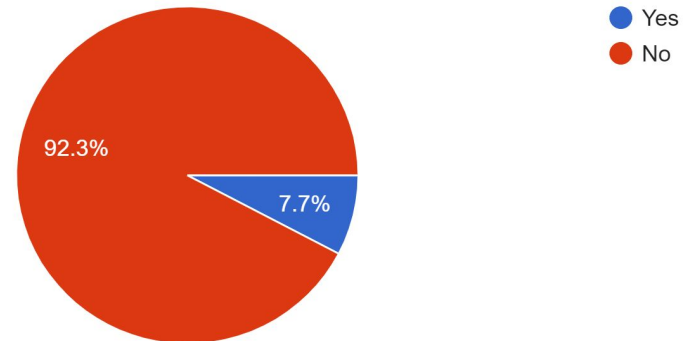


# Project Oscar

Would you use a Project Oscar bin if it was put in your neighborhood?



Do you know where the closest Project Oscar bin is in your neighborhood?



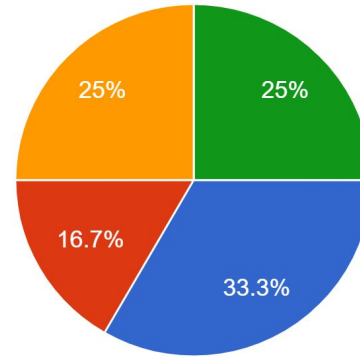
# Existing Bin Locations



People are sad about the lack of Composting knowledge

If your composting bin breaks what should you do?

12 responses



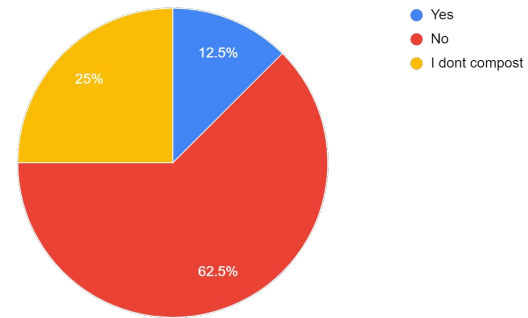
- Cry
- Use another old bin
- Call the city and they will come and give you a new one during the next pick up day
- Throw all of your compost in the trash

What is composting?

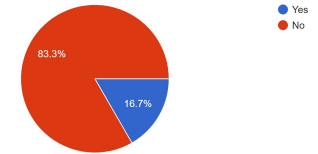
# On Campus

- Very few respondents
- Those that did are largely unaware of the resources available to them

Are you aware of the composting resources available to you on campus?



Are you familiar with what can be composted on campus?  
6 responses



Which of these composting resources are you aware of? Select all that apply:

11 responses

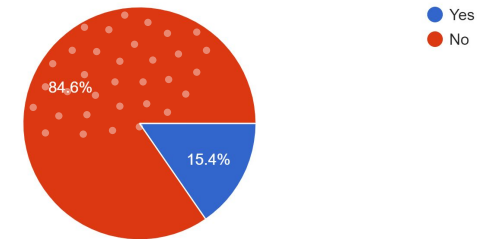


# Discussion/Big Takeaways

- People are unaware of what is available to them
- Even if they are aware of the resources, they do not know how to utilize them or

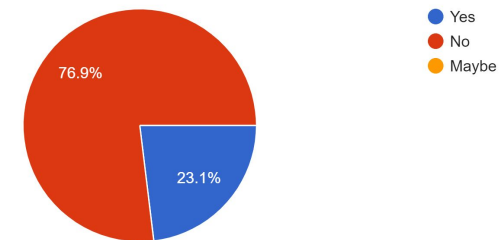
Do you know how to use Boston's Curbside Pickup program?

13 responses



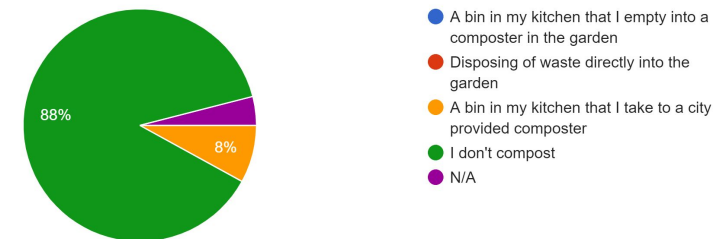
Are you aware of the composting resources available to you ?

13 responses



How do you compost?

25 responses



# Recommendations for CANU



FOCUS ON INFORMING PEOPLE  
ABOUT THE RESOURCES  
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO THEM



PROVIDE GENERAL EDUCATION ON  
HOW TO COMPOST – FOCUSING  
ON YOUNGER INDIVIDUALS



MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF THE  
COMPOSTING BINS IN EAST  
VILLAGE, WEST VILLAGE B,C,E



CAMPAIGN NORTHEASTERN TO  
CONDUCT WASTE AUDITS OR  
ANALYZE WHERE THE WASTE GOES

# Bibliography

Figure Source

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fceng.2022.850308/full>

Northeastern Composting Data

<https://facilities.northeastern.edu/materials-recycling/composting/>

Composting at Northeastern

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/curbside-food-waste-collection>

Project Oscar info

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar>

Project Oscar Map

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/project-oscar#map--767486>