

Lake County Adult Corrections

Food Scrap Composting and Recycling Overview

April 2019



Lake County Jail Landfill Compactor Service Data 2016-2018



Adult Corrections

Food waste in the prison system is significant:

- An estimated 200,000 tons of food is wasted in American jails
- 65% of jobs in the green economy are accessible to people with criminal records



Short Term Goals



EDUCATE decision-makers on the benefits of composting

COLLABORATE with Lake County Jail, the food service provider Aramark, and the hauler Advanced Disposal (Advanced) to plan and implement pilot systems for reducing waste, recovering food for donation, increasing recycling, and implementing food scrap collection

DEMONSTRATE the economic viability of food recovery and composting

Milestones

PLANNING

- walk through to determine layout and logistics
- meetings with key stakeholders
- negotiate with hauler and food service provider
- **waste audit - MARCH 2018**
- recommendations compiled and presented
- workflow developed
- signage and education materials developed

IMPLEMENTATION - September 2018

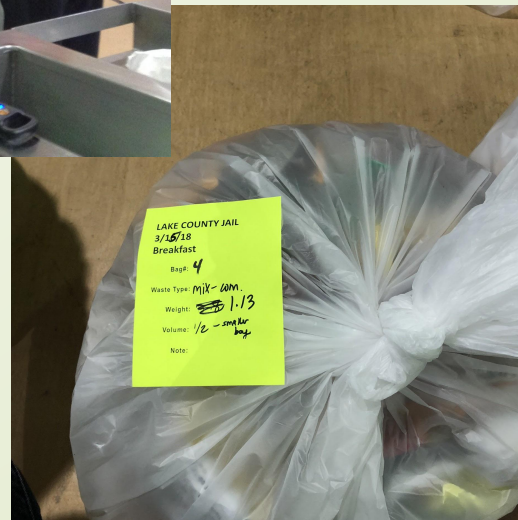
BEST PRACTICES AND COMMUNICATION

Waste Audit



Lake County Jail Waste Assessment 3/14/18 - 3/15/18

	TOTAL COMBINED			
	weight (lbs)	% of total weight	vol (cubic yd)	% of total volume
Landfill	148	14.8%	0.538	29.9%
Recycling	41.9	5.71%	0.270	15.0%
Food waste	792	79.5%	0.990	55.0%
	982	100.0%	1.80	100.00%



Projected Projected Impact

Environmental Benefits:

- ❖ 495 cubic yards of dining/kitchen materials diverted from landfills each year
- ❖ 361.35 cubic yards of food waste composted each year

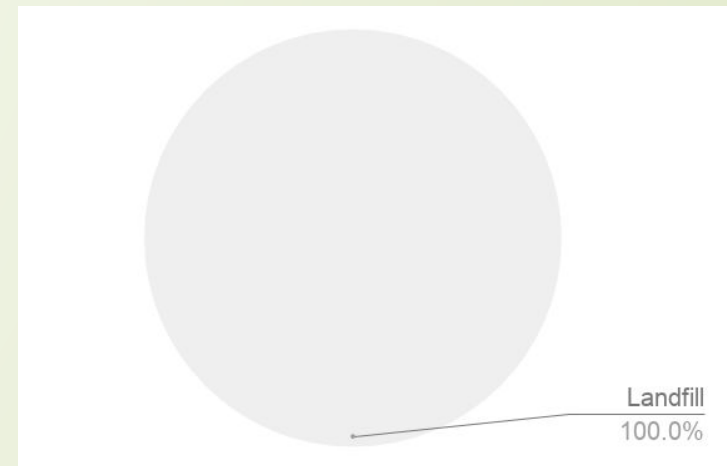
Economic Benefits:

- ❖ Lake County estimated annual savings: \$3900

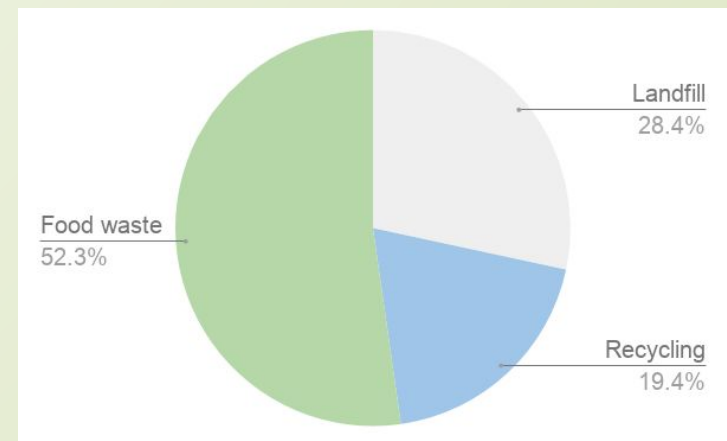
Educational Benefits:

- ❖ Engaging inmates on proper composting and recycling will provide job skills to support inmates post release

BEFORE PROGRAM



WITH PROGRAM



Key Stakeholders



Lake County

Board

Administration

Communications

Facilities

Finance

Jail

Administration

Officers

Inmate Labor

Inmates

Contractual Partners

Food Service Provider - Aramark

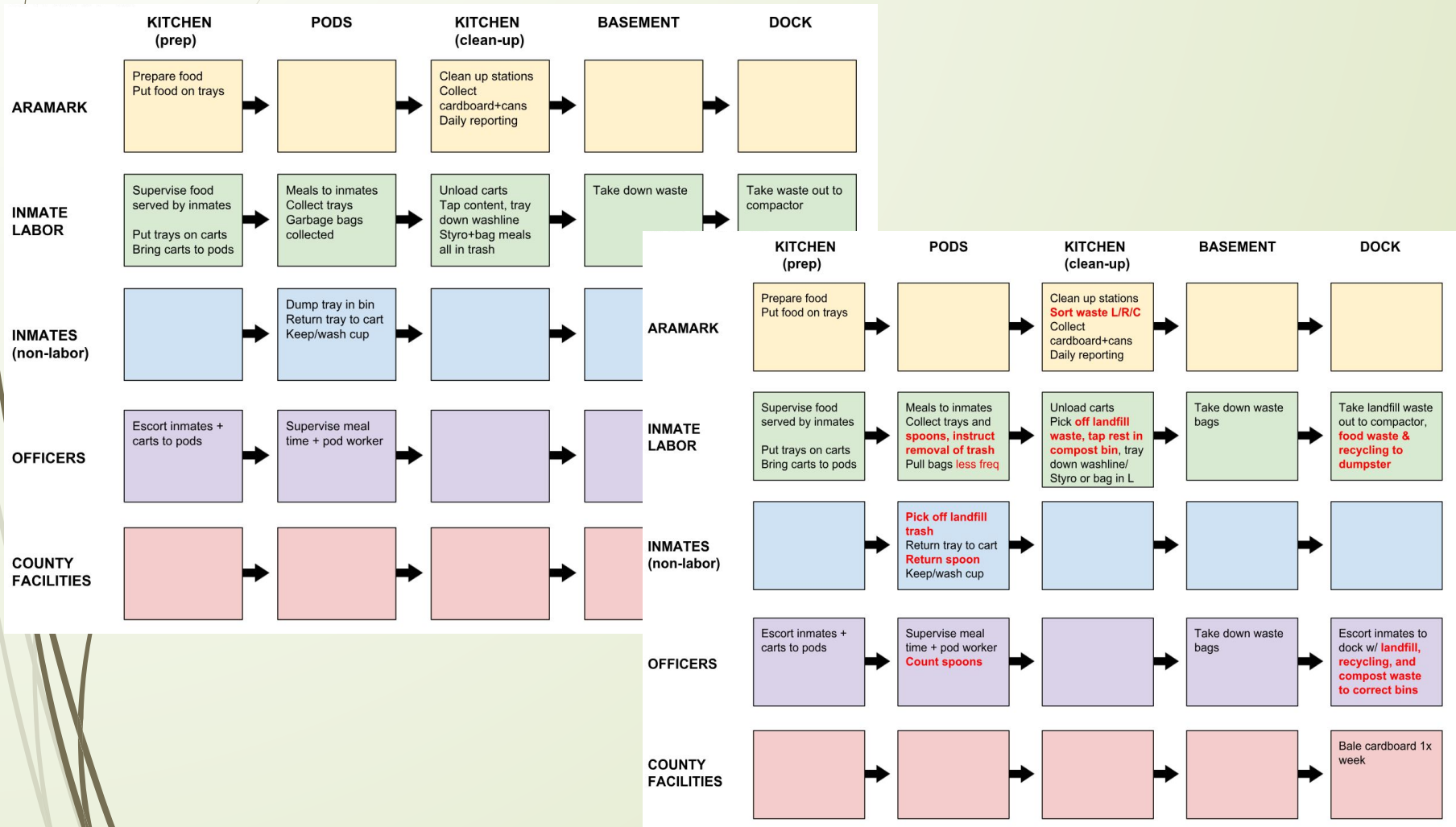
Hauler - Advanced Disposal

Other Partners

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

Sustainability Consulting Team and Seven Generations Ahead

What needed to change?



Inmate Roles

All Inmates:

All inmates engage in sustainable practices by

- sorting trash from their trays after each meal,
- using reusable spoons,
- using reusable cups, and
- participating in uniform and shoe recycling.

Inmate Facilities Labor:

Inmates not cleared for work in the kitchen support sorting in the pods monitoring that:

- all garbage is picked off trays and put into a trash bin,
- all food scraps stay on the tray, and
- inmates stack trays in the cart for return to the kitchen.

Inmate Roles



Inmate Kitchen Labor:

Inmates cleared for kitchen work:

- sort waste that comes back down on the trays to remove any remaining garbage (e.g., condiment wrappers or any other non-compostable material) missed by inmates in the pods,
- tap compostable food waste left on the tray into a compost bin with a compostable liner,
- place trays in the tray dishwasher.

Training and Signage

[Officer guide](#) and presentation at shift changes

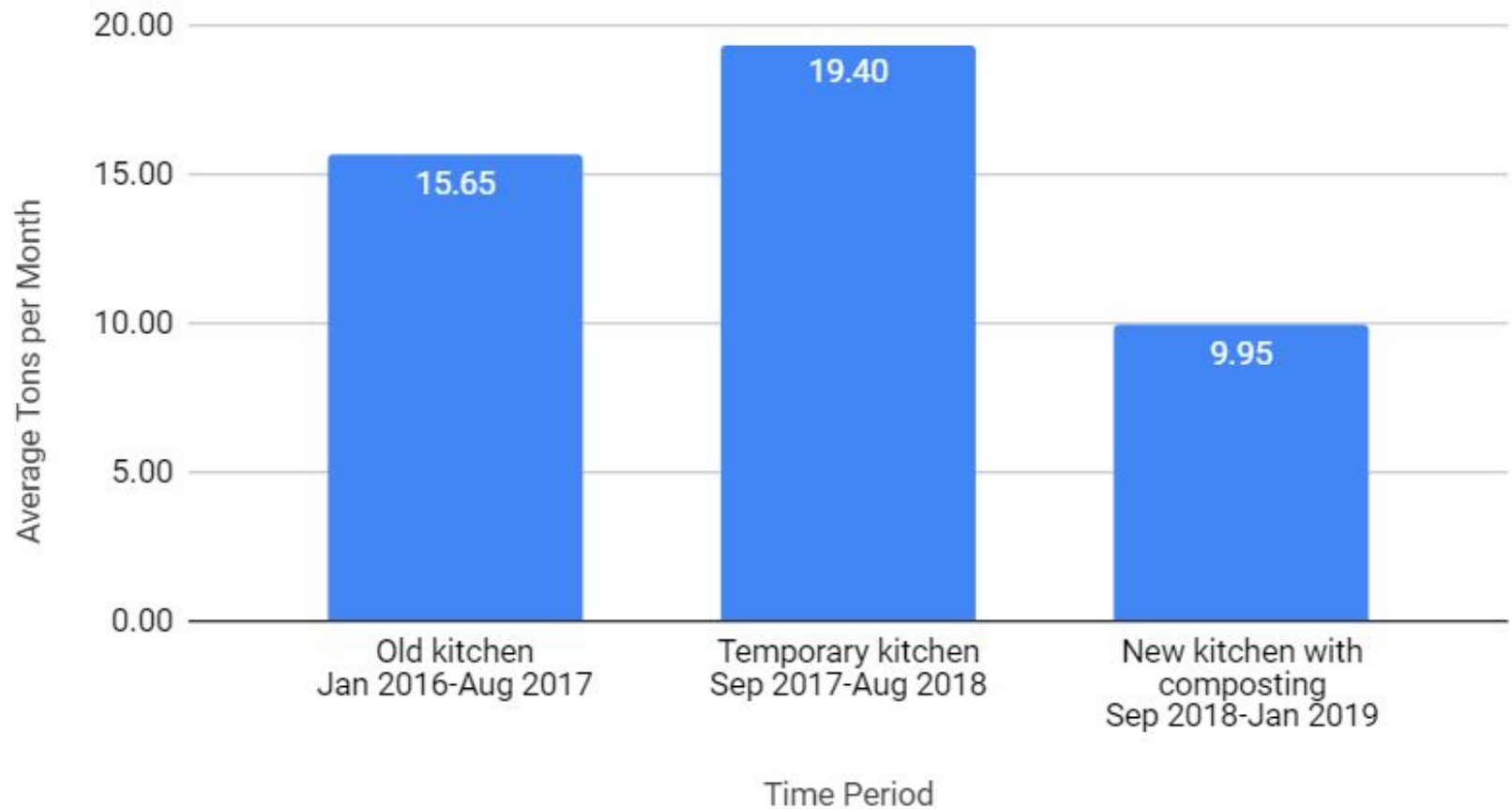
[Kitchen guide](#) and in-person kitchen training during the week of Aramark's transition to the new kitchen

[Pod sorting guide](#) for inmates during meal times

Signage



Lake County Jail Landfill Compactor Service Data 2016-2018



34% less trash going to the landfill
350 pounds per day
128,000 pounds per year

MONTHLY IMPACT

5.70 tons of material are now being composted and recycled rather than thrown away. That is equal to 5.02 metric tons/month of avoided CO₂ emission, or taking 13.01 cars off the road.

ANNUAL IMPACT

68.40 tons of material are now being composted and recycled rather than thrown away. That is equal to 60.25 metric tons/month of avoided CO₂ emission, or taking 156.08 cars off the road.

Next Steps - MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE

- implement clothing and shoe recycling program
- implement kitchen recycling
- identify opportunities to further reduce waste, adjust hauling needs to meet new needs (reduce landfill service)
- assess inmate sorting in PODS to reduce contamination (trash left on trays)
- troubleshoot, identify best practices, report results
- follow up waste assessment



Next Steps - ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY

Follow up with other County departments to:

- adjust food service provider RFP and contract (sorting of food scraps and recycling, reusable spoons, compostable liner bags)
- adjust hauler RFP and contract to include pricing and language related to food scraps, and
- work with facilities to monitor hauler service levels, needs and recycling procedures.

Next Steps - SHARE SUCCESS



Implement Communications Strategy

- Present results of program to County Board.
- Present as part of webinar on Illinois institution composting.
- Present program at corrections conference, and
- Share story in Lake County newsletter, on website and through social media

