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# Waste Characterization Report

## Multnomah Building Potluck

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### Objective:

The objective of the waste sort is to determine the rate of capture and contamination of compost when both compostable and non compostable serviceware are used.

### Background:

For this potluck, both non compostable and compostable serviceware was given to employees throughout the building. Signs were made for both the trash and compost that had each type of cup, bowl, plate, fork, spoon, straw, paper towel and other items included at the potluck attached. These signs were placed directly above the corresponding collection containers in the potluck eating area. See Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1: Potluck Trash Sign



Figure 2: Potluck Compost Sign

**Methodology:**

The sample is all compost collected from the building wide potluck held in the Multnomah Building. The compost container was sorted into garbage and compostable materials and weighed to measure the rate of contamination.

**Findings:**

The compost was sorted into the following categories: garbage (contamination) and compostables. See Figure 3.

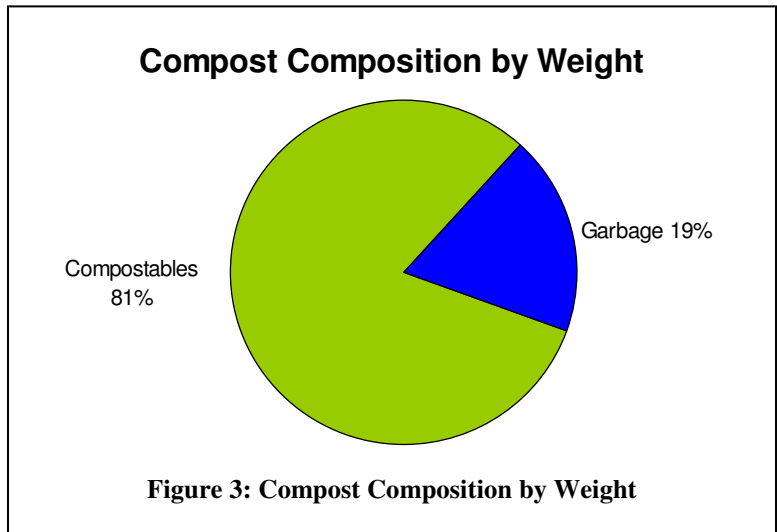


Figure 3: Compost Composition by Weight

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The following is a breakdown of weight percentage represented by each category.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>	<u>Percent of Waste Stream</u>
Compost	13 lbs	81%
Garbage	3 lbs	19%
<u>Total Sample</u>	16 lbs	100%

**Observations:**

The compost container had a high rate of capture of compostable serviceware but contained a significant amount of non compostable serviceware. Although a distinction was made between compostable and non compostable serviceware on the signs, employees seemed to treat most serviceware as compostable. See Figure 4.



**Figure 4: Compost Container**

The garbage container contained mainly trash. It contained 2 compostable cups and three paper towels and contained an estimated one percent compostable material. See Figure 5



**Figure 5: Trash Container**