

Design Out Waste: Office of Sustainability

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OVERVIEW

At the MIT Office of Sustainability (MITOS), we are working with our campus operational partners; departments, labs, and centers; material scientists, behavioral researchers and MIT's waste hauler to design and test strategies that reduce the generation of trash and increase the amount of clean material (i.e. paper goods, plastics, and food waste) that can be recycled and re-processed.



VISION

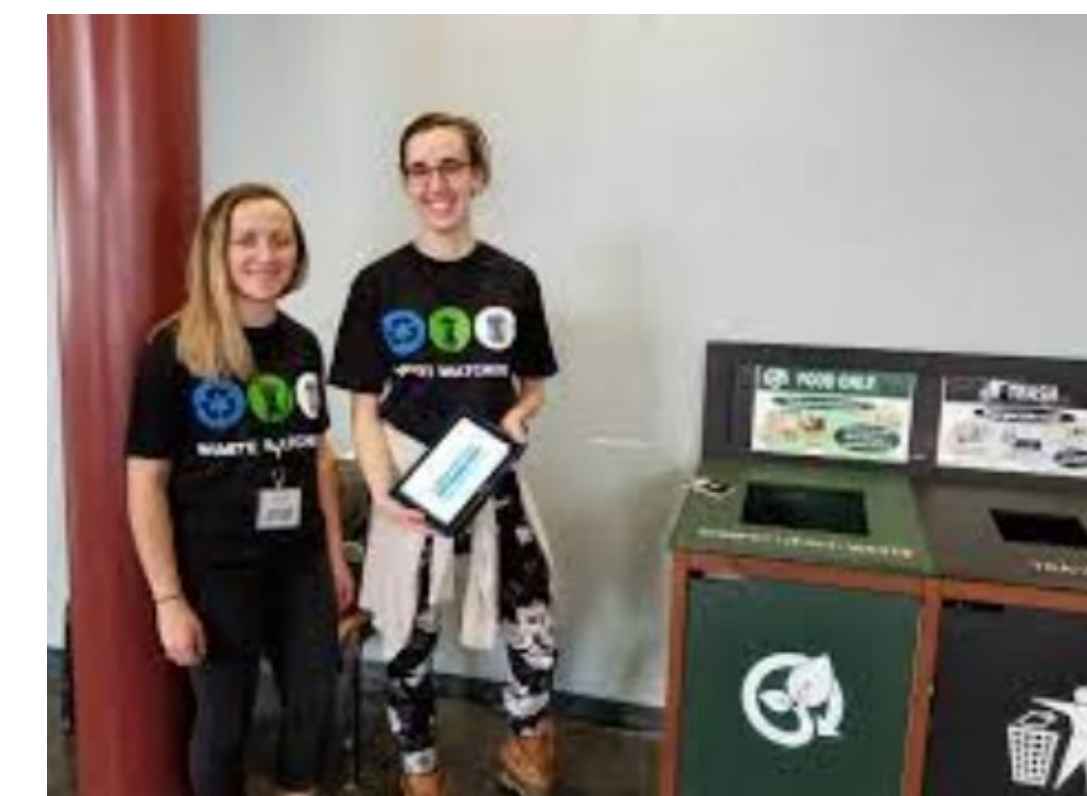
To drive positive human and environmental impacts through procurement of goods, use of materials on campus and a reduction in campus waste.



Event Support & Special Projects with **Waste Watchers**

Waste Watchers is an organization on campus under MITOS that employs MIT students to reduce waste contamination and improve waste habits across MIT. Waste Watchers are trained on the most up-to-date waste guidelines and use this to advise event members when staffing bins.

Waste Watchers are available to staff waste bins and direct guests on properly sorting their waste. Hiring Waste Watchers is one way to indicate MIT's importance on sustainability. Email waste-watchers-admin@mit.edu to request a Waste Watcher for your event



<https://web.mit.edu/waste-watchers/>

BY THE NUMBERS

-30%

2030 waste impact goal

5

MA trash incinerators

~5000

Annual solid waste tonnage

5 yrs

Since the launch of
MIT's Responsible
Waste Disposal
Practices Atlas
Course

35-40%

Average food waste in trash

18

Number of items banned from
disposal in Massachusetts

~20 yrs

MIT's Choose to Reuse staff "stuff"
swap monthly event

~25%

Recyclables in trash

LOOKING AHEAD

Waste Impact Goals

2030 Goal

- Reduce trash by 30 percent compared to 2019 baseline trash (municipal solid waste) totals
- Improve accuracy of indicators for semi-annual tracking
- Percent of food scraps in trash; percent of recycling in trash in selected locations (via waste audits compared to baseline waste audits 2018)
- Percent of trash and recycling comprised of single use items
- Percent of campus dorms and high food consumption spaces implementing MIT food scrap collection program

Strategies

- Expand food scrap collection
- Scale waste collection best practices throughout campus
- Grow sustainable purchasing and re-use systems
- Design out waste from labs

