

BUSINESS RECYCLING

Partnering for a better environment



Jensen's Food & Cocktails

Business type: Restaurant

Eagan, MN

www.jensensfoodandcocktails.com

Jensen's Food & Cocktails is a lunch, dinner and happy hour full-service restaurant in Eagan.

Challenge

Jensen's Food & Cocktails was already recycling a significant amount of cardboard, glass and other materials. Beyond recycling, they were also reducing waste using reusable ceramic and glass dishware and cloth napkins. The trash stream was largely food scraps and other compostable material, which made adding organics collection the next logical step for reducing waste.

Highlights

Goal Added organics recycling and improved existing recycling activities

Why To improve environmental footprint by recycling food waste

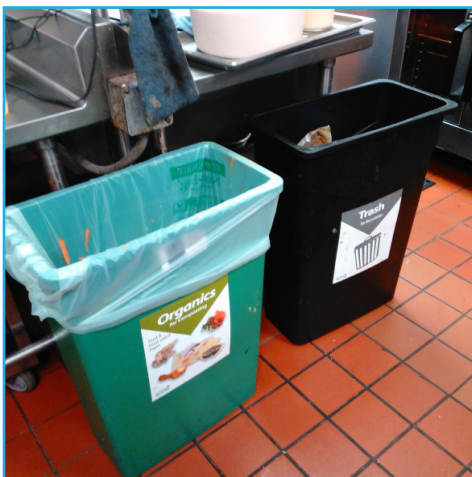
How Added color-code trash, recycling and organics bins, trained staff, worked with hauler to right-size dumpsters and pick-up frequencies

Results Now collecting 83,200 lbs. of organics for composting per year. Trash volume reduced by 75 percent

How we helped

The County's consultant met with Jensen's Food & Cocktails to develop a plan to collect food waste and soiled paper products for commercial composting. The management team and waste hauler determined that they could fit an organics dumpster in their limited enclosure space by downsizing their trash dumpster. Jensen's applied for funding through the Dakota County's Recycling Incentive Program to purchase color-coded indoor collection bins, a six-month supply of compostable bags and six months' worth of organics hauling costs. To further decrease the trash stream, the restaurant also switched out plastic straws and cocktail picks for compostable alternatives.

Prior to the new rollout, the County's consultant provided Jensen's shift supervisors with an in-depth training on how to sort their recycling, organics and trash. Indoor containers were labeled with standardized and color-coded signage to help staff know what and where to toss items.



Outcome

With these improvements, Jensen's Food & Cocktails is now sending an impressive 83,200 pounds of organics recycling to a compost facility instead of a landfill.

"We had always discussed becoming greener to help the environment here at Jensen's, but never really formulated a plan on how to achieve it. Dakota County provided us with the structure and financial incentive to actually make it happen," commented the General Manager. "Thanks to everyone who helped get this project off the ground!"