

CHALLENGE

Successfully compost at multiple locations while following strict regulations and space constraints


sweetgreen

With a laser focus on sustainability, a fast-casual restaurant chain uses only compostable foodservice ware and other recyclable items at all their locations. Yet with limited organics hauler options, it became challenging to find composting solutions to maintain their mission-driven goals. And their often historic downtown locations meant they needed to follow strict regulations and space constraints — making it difficult to successfully implement composting and multi-stream recycling. They needed a new waste management provider that could:

- 1 Identify the right equipment to meet composting needs
- 2 Provide cost-efficient and compostfriendly hauler partners
- 3 Implement and streamline additional waste diversion methods
- 4 Track and analyze sustainability efforts



SOLUTION

An expansive hauler network and customized organics recycling solutions

Rubicon analyzed sweetgreen's equipment and service level needs with a focus on operations within each restaurant. We installed a combination of front and rear load containers, carts and compactors by thoroughly reviewing each location's unique needs. Engaging with landlords and property managers, we designed a program that doubled the company's composting scale. We also helped sweetgreen's corporate office address their zero waste practices and create a streamlined plan for implementation at multiple locations.

With indepth and near real-time waste stream analysis, Rubicon is able to flex service levels for each restaurant based on demand. Our extensive, nationwide hauler network and flexible pickup schedules helped sweetgreen reach an 85% waste-to-landfill diversion rate. Currently, we manage all waste streams (trash, recycling, and compost) for 120 locations along with the new store pipeline, which aims to double the company's footprint over the next two years.

RESULTS

Diversion rate

Achieved **85% diversion** across company locations

Organics

Doubled composting scale through organics recycling

Implementation

Streamlined launch process and operations

Reporting

Provided multilocation consolidated billing and reporting

Optimization

Replaced equipment to better fit requirements

Transperancy

Enhanced access to service data and analytics for locations