

MSU Kitchens Receive Green Certification for Sustainability Efforts



Twelve kitchens within Culinary Services at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing were Green Certified by the Office of Campus Sustainability. The certified kitchens were recognized in a special Earth Day ceremony.

The certification program is designed to recognize, assist and promote campus departments that are taking steps toward reducing their environmental footprint through initiatives for communication and education, energy efficiency and conservation, waste reduction, recycling, water conservation and procurement.

“A main goal of the certification program is to ensure that people become more educated on sustainability in their area,” said Diane Barker, assistant director for Residential and Hospitality Services Sustainability. “We hope that they will continue to practice what they learned and teach others ways to be more sustainable in their day-to-day activities.”

Sustainability efforts within Culinary Services include:

- The Spartan Harvest Program, which brings produce from the MSU Student Organic Farm to the salad bar at Yakeley Hall and The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips;
- Purchasing local and regional food products through the Michigan Apple Program and Farm to MSU. Culinary Services currently purchases food and supplies from 117 Michigan vendors and 36 Great Lakes regional vendors;
- Recycling plastics #1-7, cardboard, boxboard, household metals, white and mixed paper and newsprint;
- Voluntary trayless dining in all residential dining halls to help reduce water and energy consumption;
- The Daylight Dining Program in which dining halls turn off the lights to reduce energy consumption during peak daylight hours.

“It is extremely important, and it is a core value at our institution and in our division,” Barker said. “Sustainability is being embraced in a lot of different ways. One of the things I can say for both the university and the division is that we do have dedicated resources like myself and our Office of Campus Sustainability now that are leading the charge for sustainability.”

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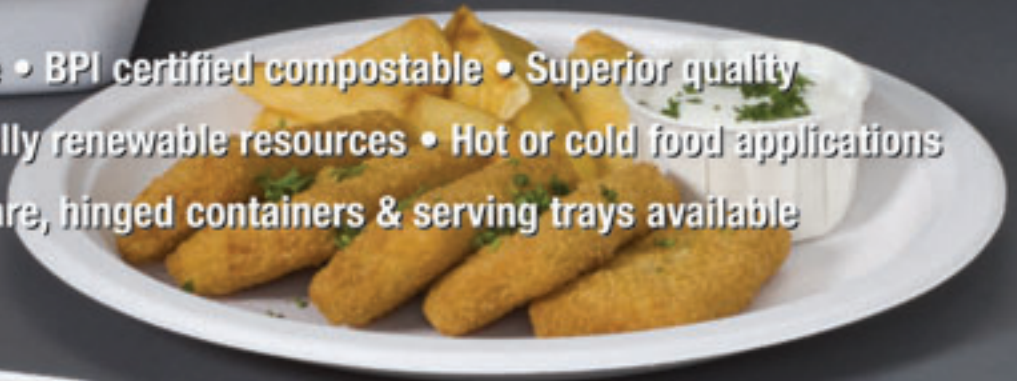
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