



# Newsletter

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## Alta Food Waste No More

This month Alta Ski Area started a new food waste compost pilot project. Alta's dining facilities—the Albion Grill, Watson Shelter, Alf's Restaurant and the employee cafeteria—have begun separating food waste from landfill garbage in dining areas and kitchens.

**How it works.** The effort will start somewhat simply, with employees and guests depositing uneaten food scraps and compostable food service items into five-gallon buckets. Kitchen staffs will also utilize the food waste program, allowing for the composting of ALL food waste—including hot dogs, chili, chicken bones, freezer-burned steaks, butter, and other food prep waste.

Once the buckets are full of food waste, restaurant staff will haul the waste down the mountain to our designated staging area. A truck will then take the food waste to the North Salt Lake food waste digester at the [Wasatch Resource Recovery](#) (WRR).

The food will then be shredded, liquefied, separated and composted. Alta Ski Area will work with the WRR to feed and start growing bacteria that assist with the composting process. Once all the bacteria have grown, then the WRR can go to full operation and start bringing in greater volumes of food waste.

**Waste No More.** After all the food waste is broken down into either a solid, liquid or gas, the materials start a whole new life cycle. The solids become nutrient-rich, carbon-based fertilizer used to grow crops. The liquids are sanitized through a system similar to a sewer

treatment plant. Gasses are collected and converted in to energy.

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## 2019 Sustainability Leadership Awards

Alta Environmental Center and the University of Utah honored seven campus leaders with Sustainability Leadership Awards at the Environment and Sustainability Research Symposium.

Each year, the Global Change & Sustainability Center's Environment and Sustainability Research Symposium provides an opportunity for students to share their interdisciplinary research with the U community. On February 13, the Union ballroom was abuzz with the sounds of 71 graduate and undergraduate students from 14 departments and 7 colleges presenting research posters showcasing an array of topics ranging from climate change to human behavior to the built environment. During the event, the Sustainability Office and Alta Ski Area presented five Sustainability Leadership Awards to members of the campus community. This year's awardees included:



- **Campus as a Living Lab:** Sierra Govett, Dillon Seglem and Yinhuan Huang -undergraduate students, Environmental & Sustainability Studies program
- **Community Partnership:** Austin Green - graduate student, Biological Sciences
- **Education Integration:** Edward Barbanell - professor in Philosophy
- **Sustainability Research:** Daniel Mendoza - research assistant professor Atmospheric Sciences and School of Medicine
- **Lifetime Sustainability Leadership:** Stephen Goldsmith - associate professor, City & Metropolitan Planning (an award after our very own Onno Wieringa)

To read in detail each of the awardees achievements and projects please visit [sustainability.utah.edu](https://sustainability.utah.edu).



**“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”**

**- Leo Tolstoy**

### **Food Waste No More continued...**

**Why the Effort?** According to the WRR: “organic waste makes up nearly 30% of our landfills, which, if diverted, can result in considerable cost savings for businesses, institutions and service providers.” Alta Ski Area’s goal is to reduce landfill waste by 75%, while also reducing our overall carbon footprint and landfill expenses. Once the project is fully operational, the effort could help the ski area reach its carbon reduction goals while saving money.

**How You Can Help.** In order for the food waste program to be successful, we’ll need the help of our fellow Alta skiers. When dining at Alta, please consider potential food waste upon ordering. The “bucket o’ fries” may sound like the perfect value for a midday snack, but the “large fry” may be a more realistic portion size. If you don’t plan on eating the lettuce, tomato and onion on your burger, ask the staff to save the veggies for the next guest.

Once you have had enough to eat, take the time to separate your food waste, recyclables, and true landfill items (like dirty napkins and food wrappers). When others see you take the time to sort your garbage, they will follow your example and take the time to separate their waste. It’s like putting your windshield wipers up on a storm day, it doesn’t take long until everyone’s doing it.

**Thank You!** This program would not have been possible without [Wasatch Resource Recovery](#) and the hard work of Etienne Arent, last season’s Alta Environmental Center intern from the University of Utah.



### **March—April Sustainability Events**

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at [alta.com/environment](http://alta.com/environment).

- **March 16 - Snowshoe with a Naturalist:** Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is taking registrations for an Alta adventure. [alta.com/the-mountain/events](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events)

- **March 21-21 - Intermountain Sustainability Summit:** Join the annual summit of sustainability professionals from business, non-profits, government, and education come to learn, share, network and build momentum to improve our communities, environment and economy. [weber.edu/issummit](http://weber.edu/issummit)

- **April 8 - Monthly Bird Survey:** Join our local birder from Tracy Aviary for this month’s Bird Survey on skis in Alta. No experience necessary, but free registration required. [alta.com/the-mountain/events](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events)

- **April 20 - Alta Earth Day:** Celebrate Alta and all its glory of natural resources, great community, and sustainability in the ski industry. The day will be filled with naturalist tours on skis and snowshoes, ski & snowboard recycling, bike tune-ups, eco-

vendors, and evening food, libations and music. Check out the full detail of events at [alta.com/the-mountain/events/earth-day](http://alta.com/the-mountain/events/earth-day) or to inquire about being a vendor or sponsors email [environment@alta.com](mailto:environment@alta.com).

- **April 22 - The Official EARTH DAY:** There are earth day celebrations everywhere! This is a great day to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors or join your local community in recognizing your natural resources and more. Check out [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) for an event in your neck of the woods or for those in Utah check out [utah.com/earth-day-events-in-utah-2018](http://utah.com/earth-day-events-in-utah-2018).