

CTA 11-11
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Fuel for Food



July 1, 2011 –CTA researcher Sirisha Nukala and Gautham Rajappa, a Ph.D. student from the University of Tennessee, kick-started the Biogas Digester summer project titled “Fuel from Food” by collecting data on ORNL food waste at the cafeteria on June 28-29. Sirisha and Gautham greeted staff and took their trays when they finished their meal. What were they up to? They are evaluating the waste coming from the cafeteria to find out if it can be used to generate biogas or for compost. They separated food waste from other garbage and measured an average of 38 kg of food preparation waste (stems, cores, and peels) and 18 kg of post-consumer food waste (food left on the plate). They have more data to gather, and will keep us informed of what they find. That’s really a small amount of food waste given that close to 2,000 meals is served daily.



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