

Composting at School

Composting your school's food scraps can be a rewarding way to reduce your school's waste and the resulting compost can be used for plants on school grounds. Implementing and maintaining a composting system involves collaborative planning, management and continued commitment from all partners.

Before you get started, check with your school district facilities staff for existing policy regarding composting and contact your local city or county government to find out the status of organics collection (curbside food scrap collection) in your area. Also calculate the amount of food scraps your school produces each day, and week, to help you determine the type of compost system that will best meet your needs.

Proper planning and research will set your school up for success. Use the links below to find out more about the composting process, compost systems and curriculum connections.

The composting process

www.oregonmetro.gov/compost

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/composting/index.htm

www.wormwoman.com, *Worms Eat My Garbage*, by Mary Appelhoff

Compost systems (equipment)

www.composters.org

www.compostbins.com

www.wormwoman.com, *The Worm Café: Mid-scale Vermicomposting of Lunchroom Wastes*, by Binet Payne

Curriculum connections

www.wormwoman.com, *Worms Eat Our Garbage*, by Mary Appelhoff

<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/compostingintheclassroom.pdf>, *Composting in the Classroom*, by Cornell University