

Going Green and Saving Money

Estimate Your Savings

The table below provides a starting point to evaluate how a composting program can reduce your school's cost. The estimated savings are based on actual experience in Thurston County, Washington.

Assumption			Cost before Composting	Cost with Composting	Annual Savings from Composting	Annual Trash Diversion (tons)
Pounds per Student per Day	Number of Students	Weekly Tons Produced	*Estimated disposal per ton Trash	*Estimated disposal per ton Organics		
2 lbs.	0 - 249	1.25	\$72.00	\$36.00	\$1620	45
2 lbs.	250 - 399	1.25 - 1.99	\$72.00	\$36.00	\$1,620 - \$2,579	45 - 71
2 lbs.	400 - 599	2.0 - 2.9	\$72.00	\$36.00	\$2,592 - \$3,758	72 - 104
2 lbs.	600 - 1000+	3.0 - 5.0	\$72.00	\$36.00	\$3,888 - \$6,480	108 - 180

*Disposal fees based on Thurston County, WA fee schedule

¹Assume 180 day/school year or 36 weeks (1.25 tons * \$72/ton * 36 weeks = \$3,240 before composting)
(1.25 tons * \$36/ton * 36 weeks = \$1,620 with composting)

Each school is unique and lunchroom organics compost programs may need to be tailored differently. Education is key for a successful program. Educational events include:

- Faculty Meetings
- School-wide assemblies
- Informational classroom presentations
- Training of custodial and kitchen staff

All education needs to be completed prior to bringing in recycling/compost containers. It is essential that custodians have whatever is needed to ease their workload. They are the gate-keepers of the program and need to monitor cross-contamination of bins.

Getting Started

There are many resources available to you now for getting your program started. Here are a few websites you may want to visit:

San Francisco's Food to Flowers!

The program website has an extensive amount of educational resources.
www.sfenvironmentkids.org

Thurston County Food Plus Recycling Program

Thurston's school program is modeled after *Food to Flowers!* and the county offers education training to teachers and schools.

http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm/Recycling_and_Disposal/Recycle/Food_Organics/Food_to_Flowers.htm

RecycleWorks

The RecycleWorks website includes an outline of how to set up a successful program.

<http://www.recycleworks.org/schools/schoolpgm.html>

Cornell University

<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/why.html>

Rhodes School Recycling Project

<http://www.rhodes.k12.il.us/website/recycling.html#anchor358162>

