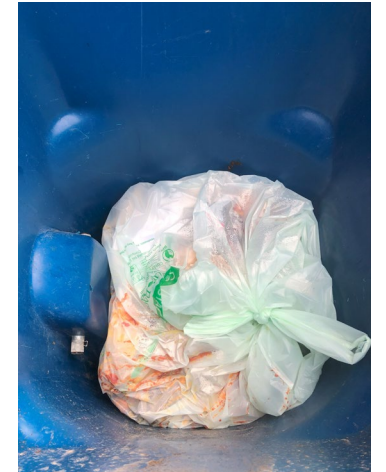


SUCCESSFUL
FOOD SCRAPS
COLLECTION



Most schools in Dakota County required to collect food scraps

- This requirements applies if:
- Contract to collect at least 8 cubic yards (one ton) of trash per week, **and**
- Have on-site dining services, **and**
- Generate food scraps in back-of-house operations



ORGANICS COMPOSTING PROGRAMS



REQUIRED ONLY IN BACK-OF-HOUSE (NON-PUBLIC) AREAS WITH FOOD SCRAPS

- Kitchens
- Food prep areas





WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Contract with waste hauler or permitted livestock animal feeder/manufacturer for service
- Collection containers (green color best practice)
 - [23-gallon slim container \(optional dolly\)](#)
 - [32 or 44-gallon Brute \(optional dolly\)](#)
- Labels
 - [Follow County Labeling Requirements](#)
 - [Order our free labels](#)
- BPI-Certified Compostable Bags
 - [Certified Compostable Bags State Contract & Local Purchasing Information](#)
- Organics Education
 - [Free training resources available](#)





WHAT ABOUT THE CAFETERIA?

CONSIDERATIONS

- Food Served in Bulk
- Disposable vs. Reusable Products
- Sorting at Table First
- Adult Staff Sorting Monitor
- Student Green Team/Buy-In
 - “Trash Talk Tuesdays/Waste Watch Wednesdays”
 - Incorporate into student roles (e.g., use grabber to pull out organics contaminants)
 - Waste audits/sorts
- Frequent Student Education
- Cafeteria Bin Set-up/Signage
 - Liquids-Recycling-Trash-Organics
 - Focus on recycling first (lids?)



ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS: UPDATES

- Keep out non-[BPI certified products](#)
 - Cartons
 - Plastic-coated paper
- Focus on food scraps



BULK SERVICE

- Empower students to put directly on food or tray (avoid pre-portioning)
- Implement Offer vs. Serve to reduce food waste
- Decrease packaging waste and simplify waste sorting process
- Cost savings on products and hauling



SUCCESSFUL CAFETERIA ORGANICS COLLECTION REQUIRES REUSABLES

- Cost savings on products and hauling
- Decrease packaging waste and simplify waste sorting process
- Reduce contamination and confusion

[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: The Cost and Environmental Benefits of Using Reusable Food Ware in Schools](#)



SORTING AT YOUR TABLE FIRST

- Remove food from plastic packaging
- Organize into categories:
 - Recycling
 - Trash (wrappers, bags)
 - Organics (food)



STAFF AND STUDENT SUPPORT

- Adult Staff Sorting Monitor
- Student Green Team/Buy-In
 - “Trash Talk Tuesdays/Waste Watch Wednesdays”
 - Incorporate into student roles (e.g., use grabber to pull out organics contaminants)
 - Waste audits/sorts
- Frequent Student Education



SORTING STATION

- Order of Bins
 - Liquids, Recycle, Trash, Organics
- Labels AND Real Examples
- Recycling Right?
 - If recycling is contaminated, organics most likely not successful.

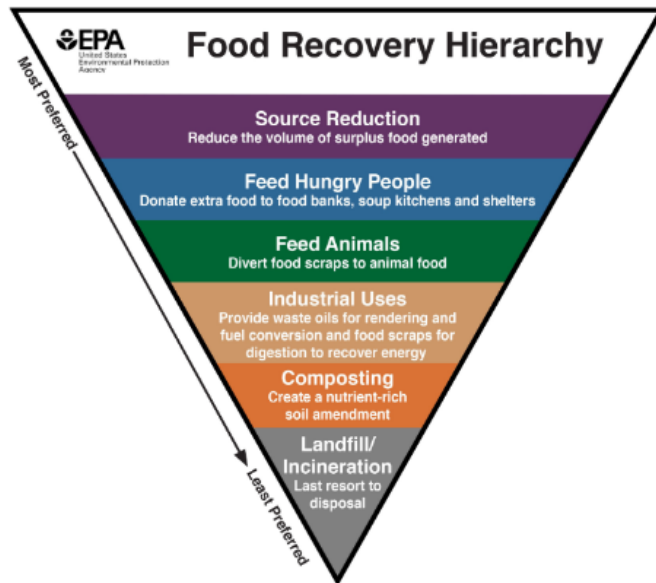


Saint Thomas Academy



Wasted food prevention first

- [Prevent Food Waste in Schools Webpage](#)



RESOURCES

- [Organics & Food Waste in Schools Webpage](#)
- [School Requirements Brochure](#)
- [School Waste Prevention & Recycling Program Mini Grant](#)

School Requirements for Recycling and Organics Collection



Environmental Resources
www.dakotacounty.us
search.school/recycling
952-891-7557

811-5-09-2022



Schools in Dakota County are required to collect food scraps

Most schools are required to collect organics from back-of-house areas, effective Jan. 1, 2023. Back-of-house collection includes food scraps from kitchen prep areas, dishwashing and storage areas but not food that has been served to students or the public.



This requirement applies to schools that:

- Have on-site dining services, and
- Contract to collect at least eight cubic yards (one ton) of trash per week, and
- Generate food scraps in back-of-house operations.

County ordinance requires these schools to:

1 Have food scraps collection service

Contract with a waste hauler or permitted livestock animal feeder/manufacturer for organics collection services. Work with your service provider to increase service levels if organics carts or dumpsters are overflowing.

2 Collect food scraps from back-of-house, nonpublic areas

Provide containers in back-of-house areas that are large enough to collect all food scraps without overflowing or resulting in food scraps being placed in recycling or trash containers. Only incidental amounts of food scraps may be disposed of in a garbage disposal.

Keep the Designated List of Contaminants out of organics including: recyclables (glass, paper, metal, cartons), plastic items, milk cartons and trash.

3 Label containers

Label each organics container with standardized labels. All labels must meet county label requirements:

- ✓ Use the standardized term "Organics."
- ✓ Be color-coded: Green for organics.
- ✓ Include county-standardized images of the designated organics materials to collect.

Order or download free labels from Dakota County that meet these requirements.

Replace labels if they are damaged, unreadable or if text or images conflict with county label requirements.

Organics service providers are responsible for labeling all carts and dumpsters they provide.

4 Provide organics education

Provide standardized organics education at least once a year to each student, employee, food service staff, custodial and housekeeping staff, and any other contractor or volunteer that is responsible for sorting, collecting or managing organics. Education must also occur within 30 days of a new hire or new student, and within 30 days of a substantial change to the organics collection program.

Education must cover what to collect and how to properly sort organics in accordance with education requirements listed on the county's website.

Get free educational resources from Dakota County that meet these requirements.

5 Submit annual report

Report effectiveness of the organics program, including education activities, to Dakota County each year. The county will provide the report form.

Donated food

Edible food can be donated to organizations that help people in need but must be used in combination with back-of-house organics collection services (e.g., hauler services for composting or animal feed) to capture all food scraps.

COMPOSTING EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS



Organics Education Requirements

- Schools must provide standardized organics education to all:
 - Employees
 - Food service staff/contractors
 - Custodial and housekeeping staff/contractors
 - Students (if applicable)
- Provide education:
 - At least once a year
 - Within 30 days of a new hire or new staff/student
 - Within 30 days of substantial change to the organics collection program
- Education must cover:
 - What to collect
 - How to properly sort organics



School Training Resources

- Free educational resources available from Dakota County that meet these requirements
 - Email or newsletter article templates
 - Presentations with talking points (for both students, staff and custodial training)
 - Images and icons
- Poll



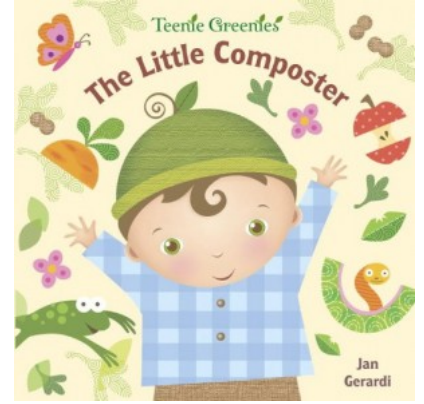
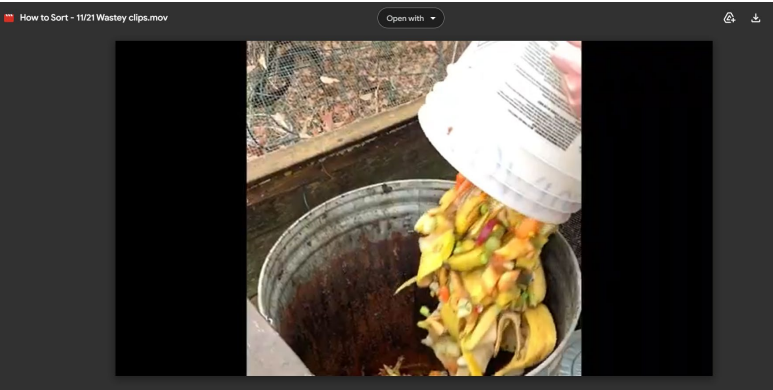
OUTDOOR COMPOST



WORM BIN



Other ideas



QUESTIONS?

**ALI VANDERCOOK, DAKOTA COUNTY
SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM
COORDINATOR**

- **952-891-7552**
- **ALI.VANDERCOOK@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US**

