
School Composting

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Subject : School Composting

To : Allan Chinn <chinn@4j.lane.edu>

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Alan: I have been coordinating efforts in the district to reduce waste in school buildings. One of the most effective strategies we use is to compost all food waste from the school kitchen and cafeteria. This component of school garbage is often up to 30% of the daily waste. This material is valuable as a natural resource and should be removed from the waste stream. On-site composting at schools has been successful at a few sites but the management of on-site compost and the associated pests and smells can create problems for school staff. The City of Eugene and 4j have partnered to offer the commercial composting process called Love Food not Waste (LFNW) to interested schools. This is the third year of the project and involves about 14 district schools.

Since you will be moving into a new building next year, perhaps we could discuss implementing this program at the beginning of next year when you are in the new building.

There is no cost to participate (although it does require some accounting measures I can describe later) as the city has agreed to pick up the monthly cost of the service for any school that wants to participate. Several other schools in you neighborhood either are participating or will be soon (Monroe, Buena Vista, and possibly Sheldon).

Participating schools are provided with containers for cafeteria and kitchen collection of food waste (including meat, dairy products, baked goods and even food contaminated paper products like paper plates and napkins). **An identified staff member and a small group of students are necessary** to facilitate the transfer of food waste from indoor collection containers to the outside roll cart that is picked up weekly by Sanipac. There is also a need to monitor the indoor collection containers to insure they don't contain contaminants (plastics, metals, etc.). We try really hard to fit this project into schools in a way that makes sense and doesn't create additional work for custodial or kitchen staff. Think 'customized composting program for Cal Young'. It would hopefully become a part of the school culture in a short time.

My office can meet with interested school staff/students, provide information and collection containers, printed material for promoting the program and assist with educating the student body regarding the compost program. We can also make regular site visits to make sure everything is going smoothly and to troubleshoot as needed. In

addition, I can arrange for the delivery of finished compost to your school for use in the school garden. For participating schools we can provide waste reduction curriculum, fund field trips to sites such as the garbage transfer site in Glenwood or the landfill.

Let me know if this seems like a fit for your school. I can visit and discuss the project with you or a group of students or the entire staff.

Thanks!

Tim

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