

School Name Teachers and Staff:

As you may have heard, ***School Name*** will be implementing a composting program in our cafeteria in the coming weeks. This is actually a commercial-scale organics collection program where we will be diverting all of the food waste and other compostable material in our cafeterias and kitchens from the landfill to be made into compost at the Horry County Solid Waste Authority's composting facility.

Like recyclable plastic and aluminum, organic waste has a useful life beyond just our plates and trays. By collecting all of this material, we save significant space in the landfill, reduce our landfill trash hauling services, manage our waste in more efficient and effective ways, and promote environmental literacy among our students. Nearly everyone in our school will generate some amount of waste in our cafeterias every day. By adding a compost cart in our cafeterias, we can create an interactive learning experience for our students where they sort their food waste, recyclable materials, and landfill trash.

We have already begun the implementation process and you will start seeing indications of the program if you haven't already. Your students have or will be taking a pre-implementation survey to benchmark our school's knowledge on waste, recycling, and composting. Select students are working on custom signs for our cafeteria and we are logging observation data on how much waste we are currently generating.

In the weeks ahead, please be on the lookout for notifications and resources as we prepare to begin composting in our cafeterias with our students. These will keep you informed of small changes that we will implement in the cafeteria to ease both students and staff into the program. We will add a commingled recycling container for recyclable plastic and aluminum, landfill trash buckets to be used at the tables prior to dismissal to sort landfill items, and we will add a composting cart to a cafeteria waste station.

Resource materials will be sent to you as well including details on procedure changes, lists of waste items, announcements to be made to students, and educational resources about composting that you can connect to the curriculum. The HCS Sustainability department and our hauling partner, SMART Recycling, can also be scheduled to come speak to groups of students about sustainability topics including composting!

I am serving as our school's Composting Coordinator and I will be assisting with the implementation at our school. You can direct your questions to me and I will consult with the District Sustainability Analyst, Greg Sponseller, who is coordinating the implementation of the program at all HCS elementary schools.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation as we implement this exciting new program!

- ***NAME***