



Food to Flowers!

Lunchroom Composting

Staff Resource Sheet

Who: This school

What: This school is participating in Sanitary Service Company's award-winning, school-based composting program called Food to Flowers! Food to Flowers! recycles leftover food scraps, soiled papers and yard waste from our schools into compost. Materials recycled in the Food to Flowers! project are delivered to Green Earth Technology (GET) in Lynden for composting.

Where: Cafeteria, teacher/staff lounge, bathrooms and grounds

Why: Lunch leftovers and soiled papers, like paper towels, napkins and milk cartons, are one of the biggest sources of garbage in schools. Our garbage and recycling collection company, Sanitary Service Company (SSC), now accepts these materials for recycling into compost through their Food Plus! Recycling program.

Waste issues are a concern for many communities, including ours. We want to create a model of environmental stewardship and show that every school can participate in the health of their community by reducing waste, recycling and composting. The Bellingham School District is one of the first school districts in the county (and state) to implement an organics collections program. This ground-breaking program is modeled after the successful Food to Flowers! program operating in San Francisco public schools.

How: Food to Flowers! is an easy program to participate in - for students and staff! Currently, students dump all lunch leftovers in the garbage can. With Food to Flowers! they dump their food scraps and soiled papers into the recycling container and the rest of their lunch into the trash. In addition, all yard waste and paper towel waste will be recycled. Your part is easy too - we are simply asking for your support and enthusiasm. Curriculum materials, in-class presentations and other community resources are available.



Food to Flowers!

Extra! Extra!

More info on recycling food scraps and soiled papers into compost is listed below. This is a partial list of community resources and website links to curriculum materials and composting info.

Community Resources - questions, more info, etc.

Sanitary Service Company
Rodd Pemble, Recycling Manager
rodd@ssc-inc.com

www.ssc-inc.com
(360) 734-3490/815-1098

Meucci Consulting
Lisa Meucci (SSC Consultant)

(360) 734-7368/319-0517
meucciconsulting@comcast.net

Tetra-Pak
Debbi Dodson
West Coast Environmental Coordinator

www.tetrapakusa.com/environment
(858) 272-6804/(619) 807-8666
ddodson@san.rr.com

ReSources for Sustainable Communities
Katie Fleming or Doug Stark
School Education Coordinators

www.re-sources.org/programs/schools
(360) 733-8307
katief@re-sources.org or dougs@re-sources.org

Green Earth Technologies (GET)
Stephanie Harvey
stephanieharvey@comcast.net

www.greenearthtechnology.com
(360) 354-4936

WSU/Whatcom County Cooperative Ext.
Joyce Jimerson,
Master Composter/Recycler Program

www.whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost
(360) 676-6736
joycej@wsu.edu

Additional Website Links - Curriculum Materials, Composting Info

www.sfenvironment.com/schools/ (or Search: Food to Flowers)

www.sfgreenschools.org

www.lifelab.org

www.kidsgardening.com

www.edibleschoolyards.org

www.schoolsinitiative.org

www.slowfood.org/education

www.slowfoodusa.org ("Slow Food in Schools")

www.ecoliteracy.org/program

www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/foodwaste

www.recycleworks.org

www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Schools/WasteReduce

www.compostingcouncil.org

www.dep.state.ct.us.wst/compost/schmanual

<http://eelink.net>

www.kid-at-art.com

www.tetrapakusa.com/environment

Books/Video/Music Sources (plus check out your school library too!)

Books (from Juvenile section Bellingham Public Library)

Gardens from Garbage, Judith Handelsman, 1993.
Recycling, Jean Blashfield, 1991
Garbage, Kids Discover magazine
Garbage, Karen O'Conner, 1989
Trash, Charlotte Wilcox, 1988
Garbage Collectors, Paulette Bourgeois, 1998
Where Does Garbage Go?, Isaac Asimov, 1992
Where Does the Garbage Go?, Paul Showers, 1974
The Worm Book, Loren Nancarrow & Janet Taylor, 10 Speed Press, 1998
Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment, Mary Appelhof, 1993
The Worm Café; Mid-Scale Vermicomposting of Lunchroom Wastes, Binet Payne, Flower Press, 1999

Videos

Bill Nye the Science Guy (Bham Public Library has complete set)
The Waterville Winslow Leaf Recycling Project, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1991
Composting Cafeteria and Commercial Food Waste, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1996
The Wiscasset School Food Waste Recycling Project, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 1992
Wormania, Mary Appelhof, Flowerfield Enterprises Production, 1995
Worm Bin Creatures: Alive & Through a Microscope, Warren Hatch

Music

Tickle Tune Typhoon - Singing Science, 2000. Check out a song titled "Dirt"
www.tickletunetyphoon.com
Banana Slug (sung to the tune of La Bamba)

Key Words - these may help in Internet and library searches

Compost/ing
Waste/Waste Reduction
Recycling
Organic/Organics Collections Program
Decompose/Decomposition
Biodegradable
Food Scraps/Food Scrap Recycling
Garbage
Gardening

***Thank you for helping make the
Food to Flowers! Lunchroom Composting program a success.***