

# City of Bellevue- Bellevue School District Food Recycling Program



## Program details:

- Items are collected in the cafeteria in green “Slim Jim” containers, lined with “bio-bags” (bags made from corn)
- When containers are full, please tie off the “bio-bag”
- Place the “bio-bag” in the compost cart located in your garbage/recycling enclosure.
- Carts look like residential recycling bins and are 96 gallons.
- Cedar Grove Composting facilities’ trucks will empty outdoor carts weekly and truck materials to their facility. In 8 weeks, collected food waste will turn into compost, a valuable soil- amendment.
- The City will provide the following items through a grant from Department of Ecology: indoor green containers, dollies for indoor green containers, biobags (for a limited time), posters listing what can and cannot be composted, stickers for containers, outdoor carts

## Acceptable Materials:

- All food (meat, dairy included)
- Napkins and paper towels
- Pizza boxes
- Paper liners, paper “boats”
- Uncoated paper plates and cups



## Not acceptable:

- No liquids
- No glass, metal or plastic
- No bathroom paper towels

## Steps for Schools to get started:

1. Meet with District and City Rep to go over details of program
2. Pick a kick off date to start the program at lunch
3. Determine how many green indoor compost containers will be needed, and outdoor compost carts. The City rep or District rep will order these and have them delivered the morning of kick off- or sooner.
4. Identify a student group to help promote the program by making posters, announcements, etc.
5. Identify a student group to help monitor containers for at least the first two weeks of the program. This includes standing by the containers during lunch, wearing a “green leader” lanyard and guiding students through sorting.
6. Have City Rep work with student group to develop outreach plan and monitoring strategy
7. Have City Rep train student monitors prior to kick off
8. City Rep will arrive between an hour or ½ hour early on kick off day to set up containers, place signs and stay throughout lunches.



## **PROMOTION**

Approximately 2 weeks before kick off, work with a student group to pick about 5 ways to promote the new compost program. This helps let the school know the program is coming, and helps to educate everyone on what is acceptable for this program- and how it works. Start putting up items and promoting – the week of kick off in the cafeteria.

Here are some ideas on how to Promote:

- Make posters with pictures of what is recyclable and what is compostable on them.
- Make morning announcements the whole week of the new compost program (the City can provide samples of these)
- Put “table talkers” on tables- the day of kick off (The City can provide these)- better for middle and high school, than elementary school.
- Hold an assembly.
- Make classroom presentations.
- Hold a compost or recycling “parade”- before lunch, in hallways.
- Put a blurb in your parent newsletter (the City can provide a sample)
- Announce the new program on your outdoor reader board, or make a display for your indoor display case.
- Hold a recycling contest or have students try laminated quiz sheets (The City can provide these)
- Create a video blurb.
- Place signs on containers listing what can be composted (The City can provide these)
- Announce new program at all staff meeting.
- Send out an email to staff about the new program (the City can provide a sample)

## **MONITORING DETAILS:**

- Monitors should attend a training to be certain they know what is and is not compostable. The City or Cedar Grove will do this training.
- Stand in pairs by stations to help students sort recycling, composting and garbage.
- Should be in place for at least two weeks.
- The City will provide gloves and lanyards for monitors to get started.