



Lunchroom Composting and Recycling
September 29, 2023

Welcome!



Kate Mason-Schultz
D65 Nutrition Services
Coordinator



Karen Bireta
D65 Sustainability
Coordinator



Brian Zimmerman
City of Evanston
Solid Waste Coordinator

Wondering what your
experiences are composting
at home?

Wondering what your
experiences are recycling and
reducing waste at home?



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Lunchroom Composting and Recycling in all D65 Schools



Lunchroom Composting & Recycling

- Bessie Rhodes
- Chute
- Dawes
- JEH Early Childhood
- Haven
- King Arts
- Kingsley
- Lincoln
- Lincolnwood
- Nichols
- Oakton
- Orrington
- Park
- Walker
- Washington
- Willard



Lunchroom Composting & Recycling Video



[English](#)



[Spanish](#)

According to the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition, **Evanston/Skokie School District 65** has set a record in our We Compost program with having the most number of schools in a district participating in food scrap composting!

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



6,540
Students at
17 Schools

222,735 lbs.
Composted
Waste

363,086
Trays
Composted

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



6,540
estudiantes
en 17 escuelas

222,735
libras de
composta

363,086
bandejas
compostadas

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



**222,735 lbs.
Composted
Waste
(111 tons)**

**~ 1.1 Blue
Whales
(105 tons)**

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



**222,735
libras de
composta
(110 tons)**

**~ 1.1
ballena azul
(105 tons)**

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



363,086
Trays Stacked,
Composted

~ 3.9 Sears Towers,
total height of
trays stacked

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



363,086
bandejas
compostadas

~ 3.9 Torres Sears,
altura total de las
bandejas apiladas

Lunchroom Composting & Recycling at D65



22-23 SCHOOL YEAR POSITIVE IMPACT



=
Equals



97.8 Metric Tons of
Carbon Emissions
Avoided by
Composting instead
of Landfilling

~1617 Tree
Seedlings
growing for 10
Years

Composta y Reciclaje en las Cafeterías del D65



IMPACTO POSITIVO DEL AÑO ESCOLAR 22-23



=
es igual a



97.8 toneladas
métricas de emisiones
de carbono evitadas
por el compostaje en
lugar del vertido

~1617 Plántulas
de árboles que
crecen durante
10 años

How it Works: Lunchroom Waste Stations



SHARE TABLE



UNEATEN WHOLE FRUIT
WITH PEEL

UNOPENED,
FACTORY-SEALED FOODS



NO FOODS
FROM HOME



NO FOODS WITH
REOPENABLE PACKAGING



NO FOODS
WITHOUT PACKAGING



Tray

Properly sort waste and
stack empty trays this
way!



Stack



Recycling- Which best describes you?



- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You actively look for information on recycling● You feel recycling is a responsibility and can be convenient and easy for everyone to do● You believe in protecting the planet, community responsibility, and making an impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You pay attention to guidelines● You feel recycling is an expectation, worth the effort, and know how to find solutions to your challenges.● You believe in reducing waste, rules, responsibilities, organization, and clarity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You don't notice or pay attention to information about recycling● You feel recycling is an inconvenience. It can reduce waste but is confusing● You tend to need clear information and understanding on the impact of their actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You somewhat pay attention to recycling information, but not enthusiastically about it● You feel recycling is not a priority and they only do it when it's easy● You tend to need standard, simplified ways of recycling and support to build stronger habits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● You are interested in information but rely on word of mouth, and struggle getting the practical, supportive information needed● You feel recycling is frustrating but important.● You tend to need support from your community to recycle and clarity on why it is a responsibility. |
|--|--|---|---|--|

1

2

3

4

5

Recycling



Group	Group Name	Support Needed
1	Eco-Activators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reassurance that recycling has a positive impact● Show you how to get more involved
2	Committed Followers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear Easy Instructions● Help understanding the recycling process● Guidelines on what to do with specific materials
3	Discouraged Self-Doubters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clear Information● Understanding on the impact of actions
4	Detached Abiders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Demonstrations how recycling benefits the community● Simple Signage and regular communications
5	Conflicted & Overwhelmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Simple and easy● Need larger containers● Communication with quick tips and tricks

Recycling Groupings



- Exercise illustrates we all have different perceptions and reasons why we do or don't recycle
- There is also different kinds of struggles or obstacles households or individuals have to overcome to start to recycle or recycle correctly
- Also there are need for different types and tones of education
- This also extends to our children's needs

What are some resources you think would be helpful?



Recycling at Home- Groups (2,3,5)



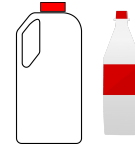
Focus on the Basic Materials

1. Metal Containers- Aluminum & Tins Cans



- Really easy to sort and recycle; have some of the highest value (\$\$) in recycling stream

2. Plastic- Bottles, Jugs, and Tubs



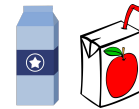
- If confusing just focus on getting the easy plastics; Make sure empty and lids are on

3. Paper & Cardboard



- Break down boxes to save space in your cart; No paper towels or tissues; Keep dry, soggy cardboard and paper are no good

4. Aseptic Cartons



- Types of paper products; Make sure they are empty (No straws)

Recycling at Home- Groups (1-5)



Make Sure to Consider

1. Do Not Bag Recyclables

- *Keep It loose!; sorting facility is automated and can't sort material inside*



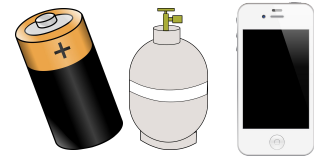
2. No Plastic Film

- *Film gets wrapped up in sorting equipment and isn't recyclable in single stream system*



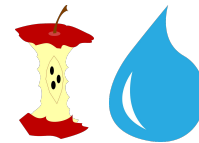
3. No Batteries, Propane Tanks, Electronics

- *Cause **fires** at facilities; Please make sure they get handled through other means*



4. No Food or Liquid

- *Reduces the quality of the recyclables; clean out containers (as best you can)*



Compost Services in Evanston



- Yard Waste Carts
 - 95-gal Cart
 - Offered for Single-Family Households & Some Condos
 - Collected by Groot
 - Used for composting Yard Waste (leaves, branches, grass)
 - Used for composting food scraps (fruits, vegetables, non-liquid dairy)
 - Season April-December
- Collective Resources
 - 5-gal bucket and 32-gal carts
 - Offered for Single-Family Households, Condos, Apartments
 - Used for composting wide-range of food scraps
 - No Yard Waste
 - All Year Collection

Food Waste Reduction at Home



Things you can do to manage food waste

1. Meal Planning before shopping
2. Buying large quantities only saves money if you use it all
3. Buying food from bulk bins can help save money and waste
4. Refrigerator door is warmest part; don't store eggs or milk there to reduce wasting any
5. Refrigerators should be set at 40° F or below
6. Store grains in airtight containers and label the container with the contents and date
7. Freeze food such as bread, sliced fruit, meat, or leftovers that won't be eaten in time
8. Don't leave perishable food at room temperature for more than two hours



United States Department of Agriculture

Easy Steps to Prevent Food Waste

Everyone is shopping smarter these days. It is important for the environment to keep food waste out of landfills where it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

Use these tips to save on groceries and help the environment.

1. Plan ahead



Before you go to the grocery store or order online, make a list so you don't buy more than you need.

2. Serve smart



Portion control is good for your waistline, and good for reducing plate waste.

3. Love your leftovers



Pack leftovers in small portions in shallow containers, mark the contents and date, refrigerate and use within 3 to 4 days or freeze immediately.

4. Compost, don't trash



Food scraps can be recycled into compost, an organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow. Set up a home compost bin or drop your food waste at a local compost center.

Learn more about food loss and waste prevention at www.usda.gov/foodlossandwaste.



Karen Bireta, D65 Sustainability Coordinator biretak@district65.net

Kate Mason-Schultz, D65 Nutrition Services Coordinator masonschultzk@district65.net

Brian Zimmerman, City of Evanston Solid Waste Coordinator
bzimmerman@cityofevanston.org



Join our D65
Sustainability Efforts!



SCAN ME

Learning in Places: Soil Health
Family Learning Resource

Growing our Community: Stay in Touch!



Let Karen Bireta (biretak@district65.net) know if you'd like to join one (or more) of our google groups to stay in touch and receive periodic updates.

D65 Climate Action Google Group

Open to all caregivers,
community members

[d65climateactionteams@
googlegroups.com](mailto:d65climateactionteams@googlegroups.com)

D65 Staff Climate Action Google Group

Open to all D65 Staff

[climate-action-d65-staff-us
er-created@district65.net](mailto:climate-action-d65-staff-user-created@district65.net)

D65 School Garden Google Group

Open to all D65 Staff,
caregivers, community
members involved in our D65
school gardens

[d65-school-garden-community
-user-created@district65.net](mailto:d65-school-garden-community-user-created@district65.net)

Join us on Oct. 13 and 27!

RSVP



SCAN ME



— EVANSTON/SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 65 —
PARENT UNIVERSITY

Get Ready for the Sustainability Series!

Learn more about District 65's sustainability efforts

Socialize and light dinner 5:30pm - 6:00pm

Program begins at 6:00pm

Attend one or all sessions, light Dinner and Childcare available

Sign up [here](#)

Date	Topic	Location	Guest Speakers
September 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lunchroom Composting & RecyclingWhat caregivers can do at home	JEH Administrative Building Boardroom 1500 McDaniel Ave	Brian Zimmerman, City of Evanston Solid Waste Coordinator
October 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School Gardening and Native PlantsTour of Butterfly and School Garden	Chute Middle School Cafeteria 1400 Oakton Street	Wendy Mohrenweiser, Chute Green STEAM Club Educator
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoor Place Based Family Learning	Dawes Elementary School Library 440 Dodge Ave	D65 Educators and Students Dr. Shirin Vossoughi and Dr. Megan Bang, Learning in Places

For more information please contact Mireya Dominguez Dominguezm@district65.net



Thank You / Gracias!