



# Starting a Food Recycling Program

Help your school reduce food waste by creating a food recycling program that collects and repurposes leftovers to benefit the environment.

## STEP 1: RESEARCH & GET APPROVAL (1–2 WEEKS)

- Meet with school administrators to present your idea.
- Work with cafeteria staff to understand food waste sources.
- Gain support from custodians, who will help manage waste collection.

## STEP 2: SET UP COLLECTION STATIONS (1 WEEK)

- Strategically place bins in high-traffic areas such as the cafeteria, teacher lounges, and other common spaces.
- Use large, visually engaging signage to clearly indicate what can and cannot be recycled.
- Assign Green Team Ambassadors to monitor collection stations, assist with sorting, and educate students and staff on proper food waste disposal.
- Ensure bins are easily accessible and regularly emptied to maintain cleanliness and efficiency.

## STEP 3: EDUCATE & PROMOTE (ONGOING)

- Announce the program at school assemblies and on daily announcements
- Post flyers and posters around the school.
- Host a classroom talk or video presentation on food waste impact.

## STEP 4: TRACK PROGRESS & ADJUST (MONTHLY)

- Monitor bins for contamination (non-compostable items).
- Record how much food waste is collected each week.

## STEP 5: EVALUATE, CELEBRATE & EXPAND (END OF SEMESTER)

- Survey classmates and make changes based on feedback to improve the process.
- Share achievements with the school community.
- Explore ways to expand the program, such as garden composting or food recovery efforts.

### Food Recycling Program Launch Checklist:

- ☐ Get approval from school administration
- ☐ Partner with a composting facility
- ☐ Set up clearly labeled collection bins
- ☐ Educate students and staff with posters and announcements
- ☐ Monitor and track waste reduction
- ☐ Adjust the program based on feedback
- ☐ Celebrate and promote your success!