

Starting a Food Recycling Program

Sessions 1 & 2: Research & Proposal Development

Goal: Gather information and build a strong case for your food recycling program.

Steps

- **Form Your Team**
 - Gather a group of students passionate about sustainability.
- **Research Food Waste at Your School**
 - Observe the cafeteria to identify common food waste items.
 - Interview cafeteria staff about current food waste disposal methods.
 - Talk to custodians to understand trash collection and sorting.
- **Find Local Recycling or Composting Partners**
 - Check if your city has a composting program.
 - Research nearby farms, food banks, or community gardens that accept leftovers.
- **Prepare a Persuasive Presentation**
 - Outline the benefits: reducing waste, saving money, helping the environment.
 - Include potential partners and success stories from other schools.
 - Create a simple slide deck or handout to share with administrators.
- **Schedule a Meeting with Administrators**
 - Find out who makes decisions about food programs.
 - Request a meeting and prepare to answer questions.

Activity Checklist

- ☐ Team formed
- ☐ Observed cafeteria waste
- ☐ Interviewed cafeteria staff and custodians
- ☐ Researched local food recycling options
- ☐ Created a persuasive presentation
- ☐ Scheduled a meeting with school administrators

Pro Tips:

✓ **Keep your presentation short** and focused—administrators are busy!

✓ **Use real data** from your cafeteria to make a stronger case.

✓ **Highlight benefits** beyond the environment (e.g., cost savings, student involvement).