

ORGANICS COLLECTION

Organics Collection in NYC Schools

In the 2013-2014 school year, over 300 schools in Staten Island, Manhattan, and Brooklyn will be participating in Organics Collection, an important new cafeteria and kitchen program from the NYC Department of Education and Department of Sanitation. The goal is to collect the organic material from school cafeterias and kitchens, in order to reduce the waste NYC sends to costly landfills—saving NYC taxpayer money and benefitting our environment.



Organics Collection requires students to sort recyclables and separate food waste prior to dismissal from the cafeteria.

SchoolFood staff will separate organic material during food preparation in the kitchen. All organic material is placed in special bins that will be provided to schools, and will be collected nightly by the Department of Sanitation in dedicated food waste trucks and transported to commercial facilities. This system requires no on-site composting, and the use of these bins reduces problems with vermin. **Visit www.nyc.gov/organics to learn more.**

Organics Collection includes:

All food scraps:

meats, fish, dairy, vegetables, fruits, grains, baked goods, fried foods

All soiled food service paper waste:

napkins, compostable trays, plates, and bags

Cafeteria Recycling includes:

metal, plastic, cartons, and glass like bottles, cans, cups, utensils, to-go packaging, yogurt containers, milk & juice cartons, metal foil

Please keep out: All foam, plastic bags and wrappers, ketchup packets, and squeeze pouches.

Best Practices

- Involve students as volunteers or monitors
- Inform and engage faculty and staff
- Keep sorting stations in the same place everyday
- Remove bins from the cafeteria that aren't a part of sorting stations
- Clearly mark all bins with decals and signage

Benefits of Organics Collection

- Saves NYC taxpayer money by reducing expensive landfill costs
- Reduces the negative environmental impact of landfills which emit greenhouse gases
- Offers students opportunities for public scholarship, leadership, and mentoring roles
- Creates a platform for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

Classroom and Office Recycling

The Paper Trail

Schools are required to recycle in classrooms and offices. Paper is a large part of every school's waste stream and recycling paper is important – 30% of landfill space is made up of paper that could have been recycled.

Did you know?

Recycling in schools in NYC is mandated by Local Law 41. Schools are also required to have an annual sustainability plan, and waste reduction goals, signed by the Principal, Custodian Engineer and Sustainability Coordinator.

Involve students

Just like in the cafeteria, classroom and office recycling increase when students are actively involved. Students can decorate bins, make posters, measure the weight of paper collected, research and write about recycling.

Best practices for bins

Recycling bins should be located next to every trash bin, to ensure students and staff can recycle throughout the building. Keep bins in the same place every day to develop positive habits and help custodians empty recycling and trash.



NYC throws away over 400,000 tons of recyclable paper every year – enough to fill the Empire State Building

NYC Recycles Everything

Just like in the schools, residential options for recycling and composting in NYC have expanded.

Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/recycles to learn more

<h3>Mixed Paper</h3> <p>newspaper / paper bags / phone books / loose paper / envelopes / shredded paper</p>	<h3>Cardboard</h3> <p>egg cartons / clean pizza boxes / notepads / folders / corrugated cardboard / small boxes</p>	<h3>Metal</h3> <p>cans / wire hangers / foils / pots and pans / household items</p> <p>No Batteries</p>	<h3>Plastic</h3> <p>bottles / jugs / detergent bottles / cups / containers / rigid plastics</p> <p>No Plastic bags, wrappers, pouches, or foam.</p>	<h3>Glass</h3> <h3>Cartons</h3> <p>Anything that holds liquid like milk, soup, or juice.</p>
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For more information contact:
The DOE Office of Sustainability
schools.nyc.gov/sustainability | sustainability@schools.nyc.gov

