

# ORGANICS COLLECTION

*What You Need to Know:*

## A Middle School Student Guide to Cafeteria Organics Collections

Your school is going green, and is part of an exciting new cafeteria Organics Collection program in NYC. 30% of NYC's trash is organic—made up of things like left over food and napkins. Organics Collection reduces the amount of trash NYC sends to landfills, which protects our environment, saves money, and creates local green jobs. The food scraps collected in your cafeteria will be made into renewable energy or composted. Composting speeds up the natural decomposition of organic material, resulting in a product that can be reused for natural soil fertilizer for trees, gardens, and farms.



***NYC Needs Your Help!***  
*At breakfast and lunch, separate recycling  
and leftover food and paper into separate bins  
at the cafeteria sorting station.*



### Cafeteria Organics Collection includes:

**All food scraps:**

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

**All used food service paper:**

paper napkins, paper cups, compostable plates

### Cafeteria Recycling includes:

All beverage cans and plastic bottles,  
plastic cups and utensils, to-go packaging,  
yogurt and cheese containers,  
milk & juice cartons, metal foil

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

### Get Involved & Make It Public

You can help start the next generation of recycling and bring your talent to the future of NYC.

- Organize an event
- Volunteer as a cafeteria monitor
- Create a marketing campaign & video
- Put up original artwork, multi-lingual signage

### Cafeteria Monitors



- Fulfill community service hours
- Teach others about going green
- Write about it in college applications
- List it when applying for a job
- Creates a platform for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

# Sort it out in 4 easy steps



## POUR

Any liquids into the bucket



## RECYCLE

Milk Cartons, cans, bottles,  
& all hard plastics



## TRASH

Foam (trays, cups, containers), wrappers, plastic bags, ketchup packets



## COLLECT ORGANICS

ALL food scraps, napkins, paper bags, compostable plates



Remember to reuse and recycle paper in class,  
around school, and at home.

**THANK YOU!**

For more information contact:  
The DOE Office of Sustainability  
[schools.nyc.gov/sustainability](http://schools.nyc.gov/sustainability) | [sustainability@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sustainability@schools.nyc.gov)

